

Intro to Language Development and Disability

EDSE 102

Fall 2026 Section 82 Fully Online 3 Unit(s) 08/19/2026 to 12/07/2026 Modified 08/26/2026

Contact Information

Instructor: Everett Smith

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Office: SH 221

Phone: 831.406.9632 (text message) / 831.740.8360 (voice message)

Class Days/Time: Online Asynchronous. Please check our course site in Canvas regularly and frequently as we progress through the semester.

Classroom: Online (Canvas)

Contacting Me

Email is the best and quickest method of communication. I check my email often and will respond within 24 hours during weekdays. I generally do not respond to emails on the weekend unless it is an urgent situation.

- When you email me, it is helpful for you to include the course title in the subject line. I teach several classes and I may have difficulty remembering what course you are in, especially at the beginning of the semester. This is optional with Canvas messages.
- Please feel free to schedule an appointment to meet me on Zoom or in my office when you have additional questions or need help.

The next best method of contacting me is via mobile text number, which is provided above.

You may try calling me on the telephone, but if you need to leave a message, indicate who you are and how to contact you, as well as specifying the class you are taking from me.

Office Hours

SH 221

By appointment, please. Advance notice via email is preferred to give me time to put in interpreter request if we meet on Zoom or in-person in my office (SH 221).

Course Description and Requisites

Introduces the development levels of speech, language, communication, and second language acquisition. Provides an overview of intersectionality, with a specific focus on language, race, and disability.

Satisfies UD Area: 4. Self, Society, and Equality in the U.S. (Formerly Area S).

Prerequisite(s): Completion of Core General Education and upper division standing are prerequisites to all UD GE courses. Completion of, or co-registration in, 100W is strongly recommended.

Grading: Letter Graded

* Classroom Protocols

This course is asynchronous online, which means learning and completing assignments at your own pace while keeping in mind the deadlines. Aside from the required textbook, course materials such as announcements, syllabus, handouts, assignment instructions, lecture slides, etc. are available on Canvas. You are responsible for regularly checking both Canvas and messages via Canvas and SJSU email from "everett.smith@sjsu.edu" to learn of any updates. For Canvas support, please review the Canvas Student Resources (http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/canvas/student_resources_new/index.html).

Here are a few considerations and criteria for successful completion of this course:

- 1) Do your best within your capacity and skill to write thoughtfully and critically.
- 2) Make every effort to turn in your assignment on time. Communicate with me ahead of time if you run into issues or expect to be late.
- 3) I generally prefer that you send me your questions or comments via Canvas or email message, or the Fall 2026 Q&A Discussion Board in Canvas. When you have questions, I highly recommend you also consult the following resources: a) your course syllabus, b) our course site (homepage) in Canvas, and c) announcements, discussions, and messages.
- 4) I will always be respectful and considerate of my students' needs and differences, and I expect to be afforded the same courtesy. Therefore, please respect the difference of opinions and perspectives of others especially your peers. Listen actively and respond in a respectful and considerate manner.
- 5) Engage in self-care as much as possible. Even I have to remind myself of this, especially considering that I juggle between being a student and a teacher. Be mindful of when you may need to step away, take a breath, and then return.

6) It is my intent to approach diversity and disability from an asset-based mindset instead of a deficient mindset. I am Deaf and in a linguistic minority as I primarily communicate in American Sign Language (ASL), but I am not any more special than the next person. Just different with a lot to offer based on my unique set of skills and experiences.

7) I strongly encourage netiquette in online conversations. If you want to know more about netiquette, you can find information on the Netiquette Homepage at <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/>

Program Information

Welcome to this General Education course.

SJSU's General Education Program establishes a strong foundation of versatile skills, fosters curiosity about the world, promotes ethical judgment, and prepares students to engage and contribute responsibly and cooperatively in a multicultural, information-rich society. General education classes integrate areas of study and encourage progressively more complex and creative analysis, expression, and problem solving.

The General Education Program has three goals:

Goal 1: To develop students' core competencies for academic, personal, creative, and professional pursuits.

Goal 2: To enact the university's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and justice by ensuring that students have the knowledge and skills to serve and contribute to the well-being of local and global communities and the environment.

Goal 3: To offer students integrated, multidisciplinary, and innovative study in which they pose challenging questions, address complex issues, and develop cooperative and creative responses.

More information about the General Education Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) can be found on the [GE website \(https://sjsu.edu/general-education/ge-requirements/overview/learning-outcomes.php\)](https://sjsu.edu/general-education/ge-requirements/overview/learning-outcomes.php).

Course Goals

The goals of this course are fourfold: First, students will develop knowledge of typical and atypical development and the role of special education services in supporting individuals who are experiencing atypical development. Second, students will focus on the development of communicative competence, with a particular focus on the way in which speech and language develop and influence each other. As part of our discussion we will consider dialectal variations, second language acquisition, and the impact of communication disorders on an individual's ability to interact with and successfully express themselves to others. Third, students will explore the influences of disability upon social, historical, political and economic contexts. Through readings, course materials and activities, students will study how diversity contexts impact individuals with disabilities. Last, students will study interactions between people with disabilities from diverse cultures, ethnicities, or racial groups as they work together to reconstruct ideologies of disability.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

GE Area S: Self, Society, and Equality in the U.S.

SJSU Studies courses -- Areas R, S, and V -- help students integrate knowledge between and among disciplines. In Area S courses, students study the interrelationships of individuals, racial groups, and cultural groups to understand and appreciate issues of diversity, inclusion, inequalities, and justice in the United States.

GE Area S Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of an Area S course, students should be able to:

1. describe how identities are shaped by cultural and societal influences within contexts of equality and inequality. Examples include, but are not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, religion, disability status, age, generation, regional origin, national identity, language, and intersectionalities;
2. analyze historical, economic, political, or social processes that shape diversity, equality, and structured inequalities in the U.S. and reflect on one's own identities and positions within these structures;
3. evaluate social actions which have or have not led to greater equality and social justice in the U.S.; and
4. engage in constructive interactions about social issues in the U.S. within the framework of equality and inequalities.

Writing Practice: Students will write a minimum of 3000 words in a language and style appropriate to the discipline.

Course Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe how cultural and social variables influence the identity and behavior of individuals with disabilities and recognize and describe structured inequalities and struggles related to disability in racial, ethnic, and cultural groups.
2. Understand the heterogeneous world of disability and describe how religion, gender ethnicity, race, class, sexual orientation and age influence the experiences of persons with disabilities in the U.S. in terms of equality and inequality.
3. Understand how past/current social, historical, political, and economic processes have affected the rights and experiences of persons with disabilities in the US in terms of equality and structured inequality and the role they have played in formal/informal public policies and practices that lead to greater equality and social justice for person with disabilities in the US
4. Define common linguistic terminology and understand the most prevalent theories of language acquisition.
5. Describe the stages of normal language development from preschool to the young adult years and identify challenges that can arise in language acquisition that can lead to speech and language delays or disorders.

6. Understand the relationship between language acquisition and biological processes, cognitive development, and the environment and understand linguistic diversity of different cultural groups.

California Council on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC) Standards (PS)

<http://www.sjsu.edu/specialed/programs/cctc-education-specialist-standards/index.html>

In compliance with the **California Teacher Credentialing Commission's Teaching Performance Expectations (TPEs) for the Single Subject**

Credential Program and Program Standards for the Education Specialist Instruction in Mild to Moderate Disabilities Credential

Program, students will address, examine, and/or employ techniques that will help them develop the ability to meet the following **Program Standards and Teaching Performance Expectations**:

Program Standard 3: Educating Diverse Learners

Program Standard 11: Typical and Atypical Development

Multiple Subject and Single Subject Teaching Performance Expectations (TPEs)

<http://www.sjsu.edu/specialed/programs/teaching-performance-expectation-for-teacher-educaton/>

TPE 1: Engaging and Supporting All Students in Learning

TPE 4: Planning Instruction and Designing Learning Experiences for All Students

TPE 6: Developing as a Professional Educator

U TPE: 4.2, 5.7

MMSN TPE: 1.2, 1.3, 3.3, 4.7, 6.3

ESN TPE: 1.3, 1.7, 1.8, 2.3, 2.8, 3.1, 5.5, 5.6

ECSE TPE: 1.4, 3.9, 4.12, 5.4, 5.7

Course Materials

Required Textbook:

Pence Turnbull, K. L., & Justice, L. M. (2017). Language development from theory to practice (3rd ed.). Boston: Pearson. ISBN-13: 9780134170671 (eText: ISBN-13: 9780134170572)

Note: The 3rd edition is required because previous editions are organized differently and will not work with the structure of this class.

Additional Required Readings in Canvas

Course Requirements and Assignments

Note: All assignments are to be uploaded into Canvas and are due by 11:59 pm on the assigned date. Peer reviews are due in Canvas by 11:59 pm 4 days after being assigned.

Assignments:

1. Discussions (11 @ 5 points each)

To demonstrate understanding & share ideas on major topics students will submit a written response to 10 discussion questions over the course of the semester. Discussion topics will focus on GELOs 1 - 4. Topics will include how identities related to disability are shaped by cultural and societal influences.

Students should be able to describe how historical, social, political, and economic processes produce diversity and structured equality/inequality in the U.S. Students should also be able to describe social actions which have led to greater equality for persons with disabilities in the US, particularly those from diverse racial, ethnic, and gender backgrounds.

First discussion is an icebreaker. It is an opportunity to introduce ourselves in this asynchronous online course.

Each discussion must be at least 100 words in length to fulfill the Area S writing requirement (10 x 100 words = 1,000 words total)

Following the due date, you will be assigned 2 posts from classmates right after the assignment is due, and this is for you to read and post a response to each. *This step is not optional, as peer reviews deepen the learning for both the reviewer and the reviewee.*

1. The 2 peer reviews are randomly assigned by Canvas at midnight after the due date. Therefore, if your discussion post is late, the 2 peer reviews must be manually assigned by me at a later date. Excessive late posts may result in a loss of points for each late discussion.
2. The assigned peer reviews [show up on your Canvas account](#) according to your Canvas notification preferences.
3. Note that assigned peer reviews need to be completed so that Canvas recognizes them as completion of an assignment. Therefore, [follow the directions to submit an assigned peer review](#), and be sure to get confirmation that it has been completed.
4. The discussion posts comprise a portion of the GE writing requirement for this course. As such, **each post must be at least 100 words** for a total of 1,000 words for the semester. Discussion posts not meeting the 100 word minimum will not receive a grade.

2. Extended Discussions (3 @ 10 points each):

To demonstrate understanding of major course concepts, students will review 3 topics and provide an extended discussion for each. These extended discussions will address GELOs 1-3. Required content for each extended discussion is posted in a dedicated module, and includes readings and videos.

Following the due date, you will be assigned 2 posts from classmates for you to read and post a response. This step is not optional, as peer reviews deepen the learning for both the reviewer and the reviewee.

Each of the 3 extended discussions must be 334 words in length to fulfill the Area S writing requirement (3 x 334 words = 1,002 words total)

3. Research Paper (1 @ 45 points):

To demonstrate and integrate an understanding of course content specifically related to GELOs 3-4, each research paper must include at least 2 new references. **This paper must be 1,000 words in length to fulfill the Area S writing requirement.** This is around 2 & 1/3rds of a page visually, single-spaced, and 4 pages double-spaced. The assignment rubric is in Canvas.

4. Application Assignments (3 @ 25 points each):

To demonstrate knowledge of major concepts students will complete three short application assignments. Rubrics for each application project is in Canvas.

1. Listen to a preschool child and identify at least 3 phonological processes observed
2. Calculate the MLU from a language sample with at least 3 morphological structures and identify which of Brown's stages it is
3. Create a presentation for parents to support vocabulary development based on the readings and the Hart & Risley research

Accommodations Note: *If anyone would like to watch an alternative video that utilizes listening of a visual nature (such as observing phonological processes of a signing child) due to being deaf, hard-of-hearing, or having different auditory skills/abilities, please communicate with your instructor.*

5. Quizzes (10 @10 points):

To demonstrate understanding of key course concepts students will complete quizzes in Canvas. The quizzes focus on content from the textbook. Each quiz will remain open in Canvas until the last week of instruction this semester, and students may retake quizzes as many times as desired. The highest score is included in the course grade.

✓ Grading Information

Assignment	Points	Percentage	Outcomes
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Discussions	55 (11 x 5 points)	18%	GELO 1, 2, 3, 4 CLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 PS 3, 11 TPE 1, 4, 6
Extended Discussions	30 (3 x 10 points)	10%	GELO 1, 2, 3, 4 CLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 PS 3, 11 TPE 1, 4, 6
Application Projects	75 (3 x 25 points)	25%	GELO 1, 4 CLO 4, 5, 6 PS 3, 11 TPE 1, 4, 6
Quizzes	100 (10 x 10 points)	32%	CLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 PS 3, 11 TPE 1, 4, 6
Research Paper	45 (1 x 45)	15%	GELO 1, 2, 3, 4 CLO 1, 2, 3 PS 3, 11 TPE 1, 4, 6
Total	305	100%	

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on the [Syllabus Information](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Course Schedule

When	Topic	Notes
August 19	Introductions and Course Overview	Review syllabus and course on Canvas. Post in Discussion 0 to introduce ourselves. I recommended start reading Chapter 1 of <i>Pence and Justice</i> this week before Labor Day weekend.
August 23	Who are we?	Discussion 0

When	Topic	Notes
August 30	Chapter 1 Quiz and Discussion 1	<i>Pence and Justice Text:</i> Ch 1: Introduction to Language <i>Reading for Discussion 1:</i> Historical and Political Processes Producing Diversity, Equality, and Structural Inequalities in the US Davis Text Ch. 2 and 3 <i>Origin of structured inequality and history associated with people with disabilities.; history of disability and disability rights movement/equality and inequality</i> Fulfills: GELO 2; CLO 1-6; PS 11; TPE 6
September 6	Chapter 2 Quiz and Discussion 2	<i>Pence and Justice Text:</i> Ch 2: Building Blocks of Language <i>Reading for Discussion 2:</i> Historical and Political Processes Producing Diversity, Equality, and Structural Inequalities in the US Wright (2010) <i>Laws and policies for people with disabilities (e.g., Federal / California education and employment law and policies); laws, political and social movements for equality of people with different disabilities</i> Fulfills: GELO 2; CLO 1-6; PS 3, 11; TPE 1, 4, 6
September 7 Labor Day - Campus Closed		

When	Topic	Notes
September 13	Chapter 3 Quiz and Discussion 3	<i>Pence and Justice Text:</i> Ch 3: Neuroanatomy & Neurophysiology of Language <i>Reading for Discussion 3:</i> Range of Disabilities ASK Resource Center - <i>Characteristics of 13 disabling conditions under IDEA; medical models vs social models of disability; visible / invisible disabilities and inequality; social acceptance in different disabilities; attitudes toward people with disabilities.</i> Fulfills: GELO 2; CLO 1-6; PS 3, 11; TPE 1, 4, 6
September 20	Chapter 4 Quiz and Discussion 4	<i>Pence and Justice Text:</i> Ch 4: Science and Theory of Language Development <i>Reading for Discussion 4:</i> Social Processes Producing Diversity, Equality, and Structural Inequalities in U.S. Hart & Risley (2003) <i>Inter-relationships between disability and social institutions such as education, medicine, social welfare, and public policy and their influence on disability in terms of equality and structured inequality; Effects of disability on an individual, the family, and the community</i> <i>Materials for Extended Discussion 1:</i> Readings and videos in Canvas module (Theories of Language Development) Fulfills: GELO 2; CLO 1-6; PS 11; TPE 6

When	Topic	Notes
September 27	Chapter 5 Quiz and Discussion 5	<i>Pence and Justice Text:</i> Ch 5: Infancy <i>Reading for Discussion 5:</i> Economic Processes Producing Diversity, Equality, and Structural Inequalities in the U.S. Marianne Moorea & John McNaught (2014) <i>Effects of economy on disability (e.g., policy, service model, etc.); funding on research and disability; other economic factors that affect people with disabilities; Disability and socio-economic class: comparison among high, middle, low SES groups in terms of perception, inequality in intervention, & struggle for equality; impact of poverty on disability, access to technology, and interventions and services.</i> Fulfills: GELO 1, 2; CLO 1-6; PS 3, 11; TPE 1, 4, 6
October 4	Chapter 6 Quiz and Discussion 6	<i>Pence and Justice Text:</i> Ch 6: Toddlerhood <i>Reading for Discussion 6:</i> Race / Ethnicity and Disability Fujiura and Yamaki (2000) <i>Racial/ethnic and socio-cultural definitions of disability; cultural basis for ethnic differences in definition of disability and interventions; Acculturation and assimilation; communication and language barriers, racial/ethnic biases and prejudice and their effects on educational opportunities for people with disabilities;</i> <i>Disproportionality in identification of different disabilities; social actions taken by various ethnic/racial groups leading to greater equality and social justice in the U.S.; Constructive interactions between people of different racial/ethnic groups regarding disability.</i> Fulfills: GELO 1, 2; CLO 1-6; PS 3, 11; TPE 1, 4, 6

When	Topic	Notes
October 11	Chapter 7 Quiz, Discussion 7, and Application Project 1	<i>Pence and Justice Text:</i> Ch 7: Preschool <i>Reading for Discussion 7:</i> Religion / Culture and Disability Healey (1996) <i>Framework for family and individual coping with disability, illness, death, and uncertainty; impact of religion in the definition and intervention of disability; impact on approaches to dealing with inequalities related to disability; spirituality and disability;</i> <i>Role of religions in providing social support and social integration for people with disabilities; inequalities resulting from religious beliefs and discrimination, and their impact on people with disabilities.</i> <i>Materials for Application Project 1:</i> Forms, readings and videos in Canvas module (Application Project 1: Phonological Development) Fulfills: GELO 1, 2; CLO 1-6; PS 3, 11; TPE 1, 4, 6
October 18	Chapter 8 Quiz, Discussion 8, and Application Project 2	<i>Pence and Justice Text:</i> Ch 8: School-age and Beyond <i>Reading for Discussion 8:</i> Summarize social actions & current issues addressed by religious, gender, ethnic, racial, class, sexual orientation, disability, & age groups leading to greater equality and social justice in the U.S. Paulo Freire: Ch. 2 of <i>Pedagogy of the Oppressed</i> <i>Advocacy and resources for persons with disabilities at the local, state, national and international levels for different ethnic/racial and cultural groups; Roles famous individuals with disabilities have played historically in influencing experiences of persons with disabilities</i> <i>Materials for Application Project 2:</i> Forms, readings and videos in Canvas module (Application Project 2: Syntactical Development) Fulfills: GELO 3, 4; CLO 1-6; PS 3, 11; TPE 1, 4, 6

When	Topic	Notes
October 25	Chapter 9 Quiz and Discussion 9	<i>Pence and Justice Text:</i> CH. 9: Language Diversity <i>Preparation for Discussion 9 (no reading):</i> Summarizing social actions and current issues addressed by religious, gender, ethnic, racial, class, sexual orientation, disability, and age groups leading to greater equality and social justice in the U.S. <i>Contemporary issues related to disability; employment, housing, and community living; development of social action plans that resolve contemporary issues and lead to greater equality and justice for individuals with disabilities, consciousness raising through arts, advertising, and the media</i> Fulfills: GELO 1, 2, 3, 4; CLO 1-6; PS 3, 11; TPE 1, 4, 6
November 8 (Note: Veteran's Day - Campus Closed on Nov. 11)	Extended Discussion 2	<i>Materials for Extended Discussion 2:</i> Readings and videos in Canvas module (Communication Skills in Autism) Fulfills: GELO 3, 4; CLO 1-6; PS 3, 11; TPE 1, 4, 6
November 15	Extended Discussion 3	<i>Materials for Extended Discussion 3:</i> Readings and videos in Canvas module (Communication Skills with Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing). Note: Your EDSE 102 teacher this semester is d/Deaf who primarily communicates in American Sign Language (ASL). Fulfills: GELO 1, 2, 3, 4; CLO 1-6; PS 3, 11; TPE 1, 4, 6
November 25 - 27 Thanksgiving Holiday - Campus Closed	No Class	Campus is closed Wednesday through Friday, November 25 through November 27. Have a nice and safe holiday!

When	Topic	Notes
November 29	Chapter 10 Quiz and Discussion 10	<i>Pence and Justice Text:</i> Ch. 10: Language Disorders in Children <i>Reading for Discussion 10:</i> Language and literacy in the school years Dudley-Marling & Burns (2014) <i>Oral stories across cultures and languages. Engaging with print in the home and the community Describe social actions which have led to greater equality and social justice in the U.S. (i.e., religious, gender, ethnic, racial, class, sexual orientation, disability, and/or age). Include recognition and appreciation for constructive interactions between people from different cultural, racial, and ethnic groups within the U.S.</i> Although the quiz and discussion are still due by Nov. 24 at 11:59pm, everyone is excused from responding to other posts due to the Thanksgiving Holiday (Nov. 25 through Nov. 27) Fulfills: GELO 3, 4; CLO 1-6; PS 3, 11; TPE 1, 4, 6
December 6	Application Project 3	<i>Materials for Application Project 3:</i> Forms, readings and videos in Canvas module (Application Project 3: Semantic Development) Fulfills: GELO 3, 4; CLO 1-6; PS 3, 11; TPE 1, 4, 6
DUE by December 15	Research Paper	<i>Resources for Research Paper</i> Template, rubric, APA resources and Writing Center resources in Canvas module (Research Paper) Fulfills: GELO 3, 4; CLO 1-6; PS 3, 11; TPE 1, 4, 6