

INX 199  
**Breaking the Code: How Children Learn Language**  
Course Information Sheet

Instructor Contact Information:

Instructor: Suzanne Stevenson  
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Teaching Assistants: Afra Alishahi, Afsaneh Fazly, Vivian Tsang

Important Times and Locations:

Classes: Wednesdays, 10-Noon, BA B025  
Instructor Office Hours: Wednesdays, 1-3pm, PT 283C

Course Web Page: [www.cs.toronto.edu/~suzanne/199](http://www.cs.toronto.edu/~suzanne/199)

It is very important that you check the web site regularly (every couple of days) for announcements. You are responsible for any material posted regarding assignments.

Overview of Course Topics:

Jan. 11: Using the Library On-Line and at Robarts  
Jan. 18: Can (Non-Human) Animals Learn Language?  
Jan. 25: Genie: A Case of Severe Language Deprivation  
Feb. 1: In-Class Essay/Lab on PowerPoint Presentations  
Feb. 8: Is Learning More than One Language a "Good Thing"?  
Feb. 15: How Does Your Native Language Affect Your Thinking?  
Feb. 22: READING WEEK: No Class  
Mar. 1: In-Class Essay/Lab on PowerPoint Presentations  
Mar. 8 to  
Apr. 5: Term Project Presentations  
Apr. 12: Course Wrap-Up (and term papers due)

Required Readings:

Readings will be distributed each week in class, to be read for the following week. All readings are **required**.

In addition, "participation" questions will frequently be assigned along with the reading. While you are normally not expected to turn these in, we will discuss them in class, and you are required to write up your answers and bring them with you to class. These count as part of your participation mark.

### Expectations and Marking Scheme:

#### Participation: [10%]

Weekly attendance and assigned reading.

Frequent "participation" assignments.

These are to be written up and brought with you to class.

I reserve the right to ask you to turn them in.

Contribution to discussions, small group exercises.

To maintain standing in the course, you cannot have more than 3 unexcused absences.

#### In-class essays: 4 total (2 per term). [7.5% each]

~30 minutes to write on topic announced the prior week.

Written at the beginning of class (10:10am). [Winter: Feb. 1 and Mar. 1]

#### Written assignments to hand in: 4 in fall term. [7.5% each]

#### Term paper + class presentation, in the spring term. [30%]

Term paper on topic chosen by student. [Due Apr. 12] [15%]

Presentation on term paper topic, using PowerPoint or equivalent. [15%]

Partial work on the term paper is due as follows:

Jan. 18: Topic proposal. [See handout.]

Feb. 15: Detailed topic outline of your paper, and bibliography.

I will not require you to turn in a draft of your paper prior to the final paper due date, but you are encouraged to meet with me sometime during March to go over it.

### Lateness Policy:

Written assignments are due at 10:10am on the due date. There is no excused lateness except for documented medical, family emergency, or religious reasons. (Excused absence must be verified by your registrar's office.) A late penalty of 5% per week day will be levied on unexcused late assignments. Assignments will not be accepted more than 1 week late (ie, no later than 10:10am on the Wednesday following the due date). NOTE: I reserve the right to waive the lateness penalty.

### Plagiarism:

Please see <http://www.cs.toronto.edu/~fpitt/plagiarism.html> for a discussion of what plagiarism is, and how it hurts both the person who plagiarizes and others in the class. There will be no tolerance for plagiarism in this class. All work you turn in on written assignments is expected to be your own. By taking this class, you agree that your term paper may be submitted to an electronic plagiarism detector.