McGILL UNIVERSITY
Faculty of Medicine
School of Communication Sciences & Disorders
WINTER 2015

Course Name
SCSD-670
Number of Credits: 3 Credits
Course Time: Lectures Fridays: 1-3 pm

Instructor:
Elin Thordardottir, Ph.D., Speech-Language Pathologist

Office: 868
Office Phone: 398-5356
Office Hours: By appointment (set up by phone or by email)
Email: elin.thordardottir@mcgill.ca

COURSE CONTENT:

The objective of this course is to prepare students to work with French-speaking pediatric populations. The course surveys literature on the normal acquisition of French and the manifestation of developmental language impairment in French-speaking children. Definitions of language impairment will be discussed, including the definition of diagnostic labels used in Quebec, including “dysphasie”, “trouble spécifique du langage” and “trouble primaire du langage”. Language tests and other evaluation materials will be presented, including newly developed assessment tools and normative data for French-speaking children of Quebec. The course will also survey normal bilingual development and the assessment of bilingual children, with special reference to French-English and French-allophone bilingual children. More generally, the course will heighten students’ awareness of cross-linguistic issues in language development and language disorders and will illustrate ways in which principles and assessment tools do or do not generalize across languages.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

After taking this course, students will be able to put together language assessment protocols for French-speaking children and bilingual children who speak French and will be able to formulate a sound interpretation of the results as well as develop appropriate treatment plans. Students will be familiar with the main assessment tests available for French-speaking Quebec children and will know how to administer and score them.

COURSE MATERIALS:

No textbook is required for this course. Readings are listed below.
ASSIGNMENTS & EVALUATION

- Assignment on language sample analysis: 25%
- Assignment on case studies: 25%
- Short paper: 10%
- Final exam: 40%

McGILL POLICY STATEMENTS:

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/) for more information.

In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

Course Schedule and Readings

The course is divided into three main topics:

TOPIC 1.

1. Introduction of course.
2. Characteristics of the French language – how French acquisition differs from English
3. Normal development of French – developmental milestones – normative data
4. Analysis of French language samples

Lectures:


**TOPIC 2**

5. Dysphasie and Specific (Primary Language Impairment)
6. Manifestation of language impairment in French-speaking children
7. Normal bilingual development (involving French)
8. Language impairment in bilingual children


TOPIC 3
9. Diagnostic evaluation of French-speaking children
10. Evaluation of bilingual children
11. Intervention with French-speaking and bilingual children


