Age and Language Acquisition

Wednesdays, 3 – 4:50 PM – Spring 2016
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EALC/FR/GER/ITAL/LING/PORT/SPAN 588, Section RF

We’ve all heard that learning a language early in life is better...but is it really? If so, why?

We will explore the answers to these questions in this course as we examine the following topics:

- The Critical Period Hypothesis and language acquisition
- Age and generative approaches to language acquisition
- The Declarative/Procedural Model
- Implicit versus explicit language learning and knowledge
- The Shallow Structure Hypothesis
- Processing-based explanations of “age” effects
- The effect of a native language on second language acquisition
- The effect of a second language on native language attrition

Course assignments include data interpretation exercises, the presentation of journal articles, and a proposal for an original research project.
For more information, please e-mail rfoote@illinois.edu