



Course Syllabus

Course Code	Course Title	ECTS Credits
TESL-505DL	Second Language Acquisition	10
Prerequisites	Department	Semester
TESL-590	English Language and Literature	Fall
Type of Course	Field	Language of Instruction
Required	Language teaching/Linguistics	English
Level of Course	Lecturer	Year of Study
2 nd Cycle	Dr Andry Sophocleous	1st
Mode of Delivery	Work Placement	Corequisites
Distance Learning	N/A	None

Course Objectives:

This course aims at providing students with a foundational critical perspective of the theories, methods and research applications of second (L2) language acquisition, with a view to identifying key trends and principles relevant to classroom-based and informal pedagogies. The course covers issues such as the effect of the age at which a second language is learned on the learner's rate of acquisition and attainment profile, the influence that the first language exerts on the acquisition of a second, other individual difference variables, and a number of psycholinguistic and sociocultural aspects of second language acquisition. While the content is heavily driven by theory the approach is to make the theory accessible to language teachers.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the course the students will be able to:

1. Identify and explain major issues and theories in the field of language acquisition
2. Evaluate alternative theories of language acquisition,
3. Discuss critically additional readings in the field,
4. Show that they can critically analyse data relevant to either first or second language acquisition collected by themselves from natural conversational or institutional settings to test or shed light on hypotheses.

Course Content:

1. Second Language Learning
 - Contexts for language learning

- Behaviourism (mimicry and memorization)
 - The Innatist perspective (Universal Grammar)
 - Current psychological theories (the Cognitive Developmental perspectives)
 - The sociocultural perspective
 - The critical period hypotheses
2. Individual Differences in L2 acquisition
- The age variable
 - Learner characteristics (intelligence, language aptitude, learning styles, personality, motivation, attitudes, identity and ethnic group, learning strategies)
 - Pedagogical factors
3. Learner Language
- Studying the language of L2 learners (contrastive analysis, error analysis and interlanguage)
 - Developmental sequences (e.g. morphemes, negation, questions, relative clauses, reference to past)
 - Vocabulary
 - Interlanguage Pragmatics
4. Observing Learning and Teaching in the L2 Classroom
- Natural and instructional settings
 - Observation schemes
 - Ethnography
5. Second Language Learning in the Classroom
- Proposals for classroom teaching
 - The implications of classroom research for teaching

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Recorded presentations, readings, forum discussions, assignment and final exam

Assessment Methods:

Online assignments, assessed work, final exam.

Required Textbooks / Readings:

Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	ISBN
How Languages are Learned	Lightbown, P. M. and N. Spada	Oxford University Press	2013	978-0194541268

Recommended Textbooks / Readings:

eBook Academic Collection (EBSCO) and Library

Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	ISBN
A Dynamic Approach to Second Language Development : Methods and Techniques	Wander, L. et al.	John Benjamins	2011	9789027219985
A Parents' and Teachers' Guide to Bilingualism	Baker, C.	Multilingual Matters	2000	9781853594564
Identity and the Young English Language Learner	Day, E. M.	Multilingual Matters	2002	9781853595974
Individual Differences and Instructed Language Learning	Robinson, P.	John Benjamins	2002	9789027216939
Learning English at School : Identity, Social Relations, and Classroom Practice	Toohy, K.	Multilingual Matters	2000	9781853594816
Understanding Second Language Acquisition	Ortega, L.	Hodder Education	2009	9780340905593