

English/Linguistics 302: Second Language Acquisition
Spring 2009, M/W/F 12:00-12:50am

Instructor: Evelyn Doman

Office: MHRA 3104, English Department

Office Hours: M/W/F 10:00-10:50am or by appointment

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Required Texts:

- Ellis, R. (1994). *The Study of Second Language Acquisition*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Selected readings and simplified notes to the textbook to be posted on Blackboard

Course Description:

This course will be a theoretical review of the issues into language acquisition, including first and second language developmental issues. A general description of the language learner, the role of the linguistic environment, the learner's internal mechanisms, the individual differences in language learning, and research on classroom applications will be provided. Students will use their own experiences in language learning to address pedagogical approaches to these theories. They will become more experienced at working with linguistically and cultural diverse learners.

Grading:

Short essays (4 total): 10% each

Journals: 20%

Quizzes: 10%

Participation: 10%

Term paper: 10%

Final exam: 10%

Learning Goals:

On completion of this course, students will have:

1. gained a basic understanding of first language (L1) and second language (L2) acquisition processes and research;
2. investigated the relationship between oral and written language development;
3. defined various concepts and theories of L1 and L2 acquisition and learning, bilingual education, and language proficiency;
4. identified and discusses various social, cultural, affective, and cognitive factors involved in language acquisition and learning;
5. applied theory to practice in the their own language learning experiences.

Course Grade:

A+= 97-100%	B+= 87-89.9%	C+= 77-79.9%	D+= 67-69.9%
A = 94-96.9%	B = 84-86.9%	C = 74-76.9%	D = 64-66.9%
A- =90-93.9%	B-= 80-83.9%	C-= 70-73.9%	D-= 60-63.9%

59.9% and below will result in a failing grade.

Overview of Assignments:

Short essays (4 total): 10% each

In this class, you will do four minor formal writing assignments. Each of these papers will range from 3-5 typed pages. Keep all drafts of your papers. Your ability to revise your paper over time will be shown in these drafts. You may handwrite your drafts but the final version must be typed. Not only the final version of your paper, but also your ability to increase the quality of your paper through each draft will be graded. These four papers will each count for 10% of your grade.

Journals: 20%

You are expected to supply two spiral notebooks for journals in this class. While you are writing in one, I will be reading the other. At the end of the week, we will exchange journals. Some of the topics for your journals will be decided by me, while you will be at liberty to choose the topics of “free” entries. I will collect the journals without announcing that I will do so. Therefore, do not be surprised when I ask for these during any class. You should be ready and not say that you did not know that you had to do these!

Quizzes: 10%

Quizzes will be given regularly in this class to insure that students understand the vocabulary and concepts involved in second language acquisition. These quizzes will not be announced in advance, and will therefore require students to stay abreast the classroom materials and reading assignments for homework.

Participation: 10%

As attendance is mandatory for this class, participation will also be evaluated. It is important for each member of the class to interact as a team and to provide feedback and support for each of their classmates. Pair and group interaction will be encouraged through each class meeting.

Term paper: 10%

A final term paper of a topic of the student’s choice will be assigned. The paper will be completed in steps, with choosing reference materials together, writing an abstract, comparing information in a literature review, collecting and interpreting data and in forming conclusions from the research. This paper should be between 10-15 pages in length, including references.

Final exam: 10%

A final written exam will be given at the end of the term. The questions will all be in essay form and will expect students to have a firm hold on the classroom materials and readings which were assigned.

Attendance Policy:

1. Regular attendance is required. You will be allowed 3 “free” absences in which you will not need to explain to me why you were absent. After 3 absences, your grade will decrease by one letter grade for each absence. I do not differentiate between excused and unexcused absences. If you miss 6 or more classes, you will FAIL this course. There are no exceptions.
2. If you are late twice, this will count as one time absent.
3. Please note that it is your job to keep up with your attendance. There is no excuse for being surprised by attendance issues!
4. If you sleep, do homework for other classes, or use your cell phones in class, you will be counted as absent.
5. If you forget your textbook more than once, you will be counted as absent.

Other Class Policies:

1. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Please refer to this topic more at www.uncg.edu/saf/studiscp/Honor.html. Plagiarism is copying anyone else’s work, whether it be a famous novelist or a paper on the same assignment written by your friend.
2. Another site you should become familiar with regarding academic integrity can be found at <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu>. You are expected to abide by this.
3. Late assignments will be penalized. If you know that you will be absent when homework is due, you will be expected to send the assignment to me through another classmate or by e-mail by the assignment due date and time. Two late assignments will result in your grade being reduced by a half a grade.

Notes:

Feel free to use the Writing Center for any assignments given in this class. When you use the Writing Center, make sure than a tutor e-mails me confirming your visit.

Finally, drop by my office anytime, whether you have questions about an assignment or if you just want to chat! My door is always open to you!

Tentative Class Calendar

All classwork and assignments are subject to change. This is only a tentative schedule. Please stay up to date with changes as I announce them in class or post on Blackboard.

Week	Dates	Goals and Assignments
1	January 21-23	Introduction and course overview What is second language acquisition? SLA research Text, Chapter 1
2	January 26-30	The language learner Error analysis Journals Short essay one, first draft Text, Chapter 2
3	February 2-6	Developmental sequences Short essay one, final draft Resources for term paper Text, Chapter 3
4	February 9-13	Variability Journals Text, Chapter 4
5	February 16-20	Pragmatics Discourse analysis Literature review for term paper Text, Chapter 5
6	February 23-27	Social factors Short essay two, first draft Review Journals, Text, Chapter 6
7	March 2-6	The role of input Short essay two, final draft Written responses to problems Data collection for term paper Text, Chapter 7
8	March 16-20	Internal factors Language transfer Journals Conclusions for term paper Text, Chapter 8
9	March 23-27	Cognitive issues Initial submission of incomplete term paper Text, Chapter 9
10	March 31-April 3	Linguistic universals

		Short essay three, first draft Journals Text, Chapter 10
11	April 6-8	Individual learner differences Short essay three, final draft Second submission of term paper Text, Chapter 11
12	April 13-17	Learning strategies Journals Text, Chapter 12
13	April 20-24	Applying SLA to pedagogy Short essay four, first draft Journals Text, Chapter 13
14	April 27-May 1	The role of instruction Data, theory and applications Short essay four, final draft Text, Chapter 14 and 15
15	May 4	Final submission of term paper Review
16	May 5	Final examination