

# EN 4463 & 6463

## STUDIES IN SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION



### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course presents an introduction to linguistic research in second language acquisition (SLA). The aim of the course is to understand the complex processes and mechanisms underlying the acquisition of a second language. We will compare and contrast different theoretical approaches to SLA in order to better understand the types of issues that different theories want to explain. We will see that each theoretical approach focuses on a slightly different piece of the puzzle. We will evaluate each theoretical approach by considering the data that has been put forth in support of each approach. We will also discuss research methodology and discuss how different techniques are used to address different questions and issues in SLA. Students will analyze, critically evaluate, and integrate classic and current work in these areas and consider to what extent these findings inform current language and education practices and policies.

### BY THE END OF THE SEMESTER, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO:

- compare and contrast theories about second language acquisition.
- identify individual and social factors that play a role in language learning.
- understand how different approaches address a subset of these factors.
- analyze speech production data from children and adults.
- evaluate primary sources in the field of second language acquisition.
- summarize and critique empirical research both orally and in writing.
- form a narrow research question based on empirical research.

FALL 2014

MW 5:00 – 6:15 PM