

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
5210 Grand Avenue
P. O. Box 3649
Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649
479-788-7000

General Syllabus

ENGL 4323 Second Language Acquisition

Credit Hours: 3 Lecture Hours: 3 Laboratory or other types of Hours: 0

Prerequisite(s): ENGL 1213 Composition II
Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Important theories of and research in second language acquisition (SLA), similarities and differences between first and second language acquisition, and the relevance of SLA to the second language classroom

B. Additional Information

This course is required for the Minor, Certificate of Proficiency and Endorsement in TESL

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Differentiate linguistic and cognitive variances between language learning by children and by adults
2. Comprehend, discuss and apply the major theories of SLA.
3. Integrate cross-disciplinary concepts into curriculum development for second and/or foreign language.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the principles of second language acquisition through reading and interpreting academic articles.

B. University Learning Outcomes (ULOs)

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills Goal: Students will use critical thinking skills to identify problems/issues and develop solutions/analysis. Students will analyze a variety of texts for their

rhetorical and/or literary features, as well as analyze the rhetorical situation to which the texts they produce respond.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will communicate proficiently. Students will practice communication skills through discussions, presentations, and a variety of required written assignments.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will model ethical decision-making processes. Students will practice critical response to the writing of others, responsible use of research materials and intellectual property, and the ethical use of persuasion.

Global & Cultural Perspectives

Students will reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own. Students will analyze the rhetorical situation, produce texts for a variety of audiences, and avoid the use of biased language.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. First language acquisition
- B. Second language acquisition
- C. Behaviorism
- D. Cognitive theories of SLA
- E. Social aspects of SLA
- F. Psycholinguistics
- G. Individual differences
- H. Sociocultural Theory