

Course Information

Fall 2023: T 10:40-11:30 (MAT0015)
R 10:40-12:35 (LIT0219)

Instructor: Grace deMeurisse
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***In class, by email, etc. you are welcome to refer to me by my first name!**

Office Hours

Monday: Period 4 10:40 AM - 11:30 AM

Thursday: Period 8 3:00 PM - 3:50 PM

Or by appointment.

You are always welcome in office hours! Office hours are *not* just reserved for questions. I like to get to know you! I hope I have the chance to guide you not just through the course but also throughout other aspects of your academic life (e.g., pursuing research).

Course Textbook and Additional Readings

For this course, you need the following textbook:

1. Ortega, L. (2009). *Understanding Second Language Acquisition* (1st ed.). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203777282>

If you know you are interested in SLA and the theory behind it, you might also enjoy the following book as well (they are not required for our class):

2. VanPatten, B., Keating, G.D., & Wulff, S. (Eds.). (2020). *Theories in Second Language Acquisition: An Introduction* (3rd ed.). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429503986>

We will also read several other articles from journals. These additional readings will be made available on Canvas.

Course Description

In this class, we will familiarize ourselves with key concepts, theories, and empirical research on child and adult second language acquisition (SLA).

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, you will be able to:

- Intelligently discuss aspects of the theory and practice of language learning based on knowledge of the scholarly research in the field.

- Be able to analyze learner data both for research purposes and to inform ESL teaching practice.

Course Learning Tasks

To accomplish the objectives of this course, we will complete the following tasks:

1. Terminology Reviews: 13.5% (1.5% each)
2. Exams: 33% (11% each)
3. Discussion boards: 30% (5% each)
4. Research article presentations: 13.5%
5. End-of-class reflection: 10%

Grading

Course Assignments and Grading		Grading Scale			
Assignment	% of Grade				
[1] Terminology Reviews	13.5%	100—93	A	76—73	C
[2] Exams	33% (3 x 11%)	92—90	A-	72—70	C-
[3] Discussion boards	30% (6 x 5%)	89—87	B+	69—67	D+
[4] Res. article presentations	13.5%	86—83	B	66—63	D
[5] End of class reflection	10%	82—80	B-	62—60	D-
		79—77	C+	59—0	E

Course Policies

Attendance: Because class meetings will include a mix of in-class activities, discussions of course readings, and research article presentations, class attendance is mandatory. Attendance is vital for your success in this course, and your final essays, research checkpoints, discussion boards, and research article presentations will reflect your attendance and engagement with the class. However, I understand that life happens, and some circumstances are beyond your control. Therefore, you have **three unexcused absences**. That is, for three classes, you are free to skip and do not need to provide any excuse or explanation. These can be considered mental health days, sick days, beach days, all of the above, etc. Beyond three absences, you will need to notify me ahead of time that you'll be missing class. For each unexcused absence beyond three unexcused absences, your letter grade will drop by one level. So, for example, if you have an A, but four unexcused absences, your grade will drop to an A-.

Canvas: Canvas will be our primary communication channel when not in class. Use your Gatorlink to login to <elearning.ufl.edu>. All class resources (e.g. additional readings, PPTs, reading responses, worksheets, handouts) will be stored in Canvas. Assignments will be submitted to Canvas unless otherwise stated. Feedback on assignments will also be submitted via Canvas. For these reasons, make sure you know how to

upload assignments, view feedback on those uploads, and receive notifications and announcements. Additionally, checking the Canvas homepage regularly will be essential for success in this course. If there is ever a discrepancy between the tentative course schedule provided below and the online Canvas schedule, please follow the schedule posted on Canvas.

Late work: If you would like to request a deadline extension, please communicate with me as early as possible. Requests for extensions after the deadline has passed will be given sparingly in extenuating circumstances.

E-mail: If you need to contact me outside of class or office hours, please send me an email and I will do my best to respond within 24 hours on weekdays, and within 48 hours on weekends. Feel free to email with any questions that you have about the course or constructive feedback.

Recording of Classes (based on House Bill 233 Intellectual and Viewpoint Diversity Act): Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Students Requiring Accommodations: Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation: Students are encouraged to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give

feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/.

University Honesty Policy: UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conducthonor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.


Extra credit for research participation: Students who wish to do so may increase their total grade points up to 2% by participating for 2 hours in psycholinguistic experiments. The **deadline for this is December 1st**. A list of experiments and instructions on how to sign up will be provided in a few weeks. Experiments that you have previously participated in, experiments that you count towards other classes, or experiments you were paid to participate in *cannot* count toward this. If you choose not to participate or do not qualify for any of the studies, you can receive the same amount of course credit by means of an alternative assignment. This tentatively involves writing a synopsis of a short research article, video, or a podcast. More details will be made available by the instructor.

Disclaimer: Students are encouraged to employ critical thinking and to rely on data and verifiable sources to interrogate all assigned readings and subject matter in this course as a way of determining whether they agree with their classmates and/or their instructor. No lesson is intended to espouse, promote, advance, inculcate, or compel a particular feeling, perception, viewpoint or belief.

Course Schedule

We may need to change the schedule at some point – I will provide you with an updated one on Canvas if so.

Week	Dates	Topic	Readings (read by class) [brackets indicate optional reading]	Assignments (due)
1	08/24 (Thursday)	Logistics/Intro		
	08/29 (Tuesday)	Lecture: Approaches to SLA (UG & Usage-Based)	Ch 1 Ortega [Chs 2 & 4, Vanpatten Keating & Wulff]	
2	08/31 (Thursday)	Data & Data analysis in SLA		
	09/05 (Tuesday)	Analyzing learner data (introduction, error analysis, IL analysis)		
3	09/07 (Thursday)	Lecture: Age	Ortega Ch 2	Terminology Review Ch 2 Discussion Board 1
	09/12 (Tuesday)	Lecture: Cross-linguistic influences	Ortega Ch 3	Terminology Review Ch 3
4	09/14 (Thursday)	Research article presentations (groups 1 and 2)		Discussion board 2
	09/19 (Tuesday)	Lecture: the linguistic environment + Review for exam 1	Ortega Ch 4	Terminology Review Ch 4
5	09/21 (Thursday)	Exam 1 (online)		
	09/26 (Tuesday)	Lecture: development of learner language (Class asynchronously online)	Ortega Ch 6	Terminology Review Ch 6
6	09/28 (Thursday)	Analyzing learner data (developmental stages: negation)		
	10/03 (Tuesday)	Lecture: cognition	Ortega Ch 5	Terminology Review Ch 5
7	10/05 (Thursday)	Research article presentations (groups 3 and 4)		Discussion board 3

8	10/10 (Tuesday)	Cognition <i>cont.</i>	Bialystok 2021 (on canvas) [Voits et al. (2020)]	
	10/12 (Thursday)	SciComm Workshop	TBD	
9	10/17 (Tuesday)	Lecture: The “bilingual advantage”	Valian 2014 (on Canvas) Luk & Bialystok 2013 (p. 605-608, 612-613) (on canvas)	
	10/19 (Thursday)	Analyzing learner data (developmental stages: question formation)		Discussion board 4
10	10/24 (Tuesday)	Review for exam 2		
	10/26 (Thursday)	Exam 2 (online)		
11	10/31 (Tuesday)	Lecture: aptitude	Ortega Ch 7	Terminology Review Ch 7
	11/02 (Thursday)	Analyzing learner data (complexity)		
12	11/07 (Tuesday)	Lecture: Language attrition and heritage language	TBD	
	11/09 (Thursday)	Research article presentations: group 5		
13	11/14 (Tuesday)	Lecture: motivation	Ortega Ch 8	Terminology Review Ch 8
	11/16 (Thursday)	Analyzing learner data (communication strategies)		Discussion board 5
14	11/21 (Tuesday)	Lecture: affect and other individual differences	Ortega Ch 9	Terminology Review Ch 9
	11/23 (Thursday)		No class! Enjoy Thanksgiving break! 	
15	11/28 (Tuesday)	Lecture: social dimensions	Ortega Ch 10	Terminology Review Ch 10
	11/30 (Thursday)			Discussion board 6
16	12/05 (Tuesday)	Wrapping up + review for exam 3		

	12/07 (Thursday)	Exam 3 (online)
17	12/12	No class – Finals week
	12/14	No class – Finals week