

LIN 4721: Second Language Acquisition  
MWF 4<sup>th</sup> Period

MAT 003

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Office Hours M, W 12-1 pm

& by appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION** Second Language Acquisition examines the neurological, psychological and social processes involved in acquiring a second language, by both children and adults. In doing so, we will briefly consider the various theories, past and present, that have been offered to explain the complex procedures involved in learning a second / foreign language. We will explore the concept and nature of Interlanguage, along with individual and collective factors that may influence one's success in acquiring a second language. We will focus, in particular, on the impact of instruction on both the route and the rate of language acquisition, examining important subdomains of learning such as grammar, vocabulary, phonology and pragmatics.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS / READINGS** There are two required textbooks for this course:

- Lightbown, Patsy and Nina Spada. (2013). *How Languages are Learned*. (2006) 4th Ed. Oxford: OUP. ISBN: 978-0-19-454126-8
- Loewen, Shawn. (2021). *Introduction to Instructed SLA*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. New York and London: Routledge.

The Lightbown and Spada textbook can be purchased through the UF bookstore or online. Used copies should be easy to find. If purchasing online, please be certain to purchase the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. The Loewen textbook is available through the UF library system in an e-book version, and can be downloaded for free.

Additionally, all students will be required to read several journal articles throughout the course of the semester, as listed on your syllabus. These articles are all available in pdf form on our Canvas course site. The day that these articles are discussed, students are asked to bring a copy of the article to class with them. This article may be electronic or hardcopy, but to facilitate discussion, all students must have a copy in front of them.

Students are expected to come to class having read all material listed for that class period, and prepared to discuss it in detail. Active participation in this discussion is an essential component of the course, and will form the basis for exam questions, discussion board posts, reaction papers and data analyses. I encourage you to come prepared to engage in the discussion

and to ask questions, and this will likely enhance your success on graded components of the course. Students experiencing difficulties that interfere with class attendance / performance are encouraged to speak with their instructor immediately, and/or to contact a counselor UMatterWeCare at [www.umatter.ufl.edu](http://www.umatter.ufl.edu).

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

The following elements make up the graded components of the course:

Reaction papers: Students will be required to turn in two reaction papers on assigned topics, as noted on your syllabus. These papers will be based on readings and/or assignments. For full credit, students should answer all questions completely, with reference to assigned readings and class discussions as they explain their reactions.

Data analysis: Students will complete an analysis of second language data on three separate occasions. (see calendar below for specific dates). This data will be presented in the form of a “problem,” with a data set and specific questions to answer. Your analysis will be submitted via Canvas and should respond to all questions completely.

Discussion board posts: In order to facilitate the discussion of several of the articles that we read, students will participate in a Canvas discussion. It is expected that all details of these journal articles may not be understood by all students, but that a sincere effort will be made to read and mentally summarize the main points of each article before coming to class. Topics for the discussion board post will be announced prior to the day when the article is assigned.

Exams: There will be four 50-minute exams in this course. Format of the exams will be discussed in class.

Grading System: The final grade for this course will be distributed in the following way:

Reaction papers: 2 @ 8% = 16%

Discussion boards 4 @ 5% = 20%

Data analysis: 3 @ 8% = 24%

Exams: 4 @ 10% = 40%

Final Letter Grade: A=93-100; A-=90-92; B+=87-89%; B=83-86%; B-=80-82; C+=77-79%; C=73-76%; C-=70-72; D+=67-69%; D=63-66%; D-=60-62; E=below 60%. S is equivalent to C or better. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences requires that students earn a final grade of C or better (or S) in order satisfy general education requirements. Note that a C- does not satisfy this requirement; students must earn a C or better in the course in order to move on to the next course and satisfy general education requirements.

**This syllabus may be adjusted at any time for pedagogical purposes.**

**OFFICE HOURS:** Will be held in person this semester at the times and location listed on p. 1. All students attending office hours are expected to wear a mask. Students who prefer may attend office hours virtually in my personal meeting room via Zoom: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/9490848604>

**UF HEALTH STANDARDS:** In response to COVID-19, the following practices are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

- **If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available at no cost and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit this link for details on where to get your shot, including options that do not require an appointment: <https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/vaccinations/vaccine-availability/>. Students who receive the first dose of the vaccine somewhere off-campus and/or outside of Gainesville can still receive their second dose on campus.**

**You are expected to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings even if you are vaccinated. Please continue to follow healthy habits, including best practices like frequent hand washing. Following these practices is our responsibility as Gators.**

- **Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.**
- **Hand sanitizing stations will be located in every classroom.**

**If you sick, stay home and self-quarantine. Please visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website about next steps, retake the questionnaire and schedule your test for no sooner than 24 hours after your symptoms began. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 (or email [covid@shcc.ufl.edu](mailto:covid@shcc.ufl.edu)) to be evaluated for testing and to receive further instructions about returning to campus. UF Health Screen, Test & Protect offers guidance when you are sick, have been exposed to someone who has tested positive or have tested positive yourself. Visit the [UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website](#) for more information.**

- **Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work.**
- **If you are withheld from campus by the Department of Health through Screen, Test & Protect you are not permitted to use any on campus facilities. Students attempting to attend campus activities when withheld from campus will be referred to the Dean of Students Office.**

**Continue to regularly visit [coronavirus.UFHealth.org](https://coronavirus.UFHealth.org) and [coronavirus.ufl.edu](https://coronavirus.ufl.edu) for up-to-date information about COVID-19 and vaccination.**

## **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

The University of Florida statement regarding academic honesty and more specifically “giving and/or receiving unauthorized aid on student’s work” reads as follows:

- “Giving information includes, but is not limited to, allowing other students to use or copy work or answers to exam questions either while the exam is being given or after having taken the exam.
- Further, the taking of information includes, but is not limited to, copying from the answers provided in the book or ancillary materials, copying from another student’s paper [...], using information already written in books, [...], or asking anyone, students or not to review and/or correct assignments.
- Students found in violation of this policy will be referred to the appropriate administration for appropriate action according to the student judicial process.

Students may view the entire UF honor code at :

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php>

## **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

The University of Florida policy related to accommodations for students with disabilities reads as follows:

“Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.”

Students who believe they may qualify for accommodations should contact the Dean of Students Office: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/current.php>

## **COURSE EVALUATIONS**

Students are expected 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 <https://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 <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>

## **USE OF ELECTRONICS IN CLASS**

Use of electronics for anything other than coursework is distracting to both you and those seated around you, and will not be tolerated. It is expected that you will silence all electronic equipment and will refrain from consulting email, social media or text messages during class. Use of electronics during an exam will result in a zero.

## COURSE CALENDAR

Week of	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
Aug. 23	Introduction; L & S questionnaire pp 3-4	Lightbown & Spada Ch. 1 Language Learning in Childhood (Canvas)	Interviews with second language learners – <b>no class</b>
Aug. 30	Loewen pp 4 (bottom) – 7; 12-15 (top)  Mitchell, Myles & Marsden Ch. 1 Second Language Learning: Key Concepts (Canvas)	Mitchell, Myles & Marsden Ch. 1 continued	Lightbown & Spada Ch. 2 Second Language Learning (Canvas)
Sept. 6	Labor Day – No Class	Loewen Ch. 2 Nature of Second Language Knowledge  <b>Reaction paper 1 due</b>	Loewen Ch. 2
Sept. 13	<b>Exam 1</b>	Lightbown & Spada Ch. 4 Explaining Second Language Learning (Canvas)	<b>Microlesson TBD</b>
Sept. 20	Loewen Ch. 3 Interaction	Loewen Ch. 3  <b>Microlesson reaction paper due</b>	Data analysis in class
Sept. 27	Data analysis -- discussion	Loewen Ch. 4 Focus on Form	Loewen Ch. 4  <b>Data analysis 1 due</b>
Oct. 4	Article – Corrective Feedback – Afitska 2015 (Canvas)	Article – Noticing – Alsulami 2016 (Canvas)  <b>Discussion board post 1</b>	Homecoming – No Class
Oct. 11	Loewen Ch. 6 Grammar	Loewen Ch. 6  <b>Data analysis 2 due</b>	Article – Morphosyntax – Guo & Ellis 2021 (Canvas)
Oct. 18	<b>Exam 2</b>	Loewen Ch. 7 Vocabulary	Loewen Ch. 7

Oct. 25	Article - Vocabulary – Horst 2013 (Canvas)	Loewen Ch. 8 Pronunciation  <b>Data analysis 3 due</b>	Loewen Ch. 8
Nov. 1	Article - Pronunciation – Aoyama et al. 2008 (Canvas)  <b>Discussion board post 2</b>	Loewen Ch. 9 Pragmatics	Loewen Ch. 9
Nov. 8	Article - Pragmatics – Taguchi 2011 (Canvas)	<b>Exam 3</b>	Loewen Ch. 10  Contexts of SLA
Nov. 15	Loewen Ch. 10	Article – Contexts – Housen et al 2011 (Canvas)  <b>Discussion board post 3</b>	Loewen Ch. 11 Individual Differences
Nov. 22	Loewen Ch. 11	Thanksgiving break – No Class	
Nov. 29	ID Article – Gatbonton et al 2011 (Canvas)	Loewen Ch. 12 Research – Pedagogy Link	Tarone and Bigelow  <b>Discussion board post 4</b>
Dec. 6	Conclusions	<b>Exam 4</b>	Study day – No Class