

Spring 2013

R 5:10pm—8:10pm, Ustler Hall (UST) 0108

Prof. Stefanie Wulff

Office hours: R 1—3pm or by appointment (Turlington 4015)

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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 this course you will have acquired the ability to intelligently discuss aspects of the theory and practice of language learning based on knowledge of the scholarly research in the field. You will also have learned how to analyze learner data for research purposes.

Course Credit Requirements and Grading

Discussion Leadership	15%
Chapter Glossaries	10%
Final Exam	20%
Research Paper	40%
Research Paper Presentation	15%

Attendance and Participation: Attendance is mandatory. You are allowed to miss up to three hours of class time without any excuse. Each further unexcused absence will lower your grade by one level (e.g. from an A to A-).

Discussion Leadership: Each week, a group of two to three students will be responsible for leading the discussion based on the topic of readings we have for that week. You will design activities that challenge your colleagues to demonstrate their understanding while also showing your acquired expertise in the area. This will require you working as a group outside the confines of the chapter that you have been assigned to discuss. Your responsibility is to lead a thoughtful discussion of the contents of the chapter, not to present a summary, so do not just provide a summary, and do not prepare a script to read. At a minimum, you will have a list of discussion questions that you will use in class. This list of discussion questions, together with your brief answers, has to be submitted via email to Prof. Wulff by 8pm on the Monday of the week that your group is leading the discussion (i.e., three days before class).

Chapter Glossaries: You are responsible for 9 glossaries that should cover the most important terminology and concepts covered in the textbook chapters you have to read (nearly) each week. The glossaries should each comprise at least 10 entries with definitions, and as many entries as you consider necessary to cover the main contents of the chapter. You are allowed to consult secondary sources for definitions, but you have to refer to these sources whenever you do. Each glossary should list your name and the relevant chapter on top of the page(s). The

chapter glossaries are due as hard copies on the day the chapter reading is due before class starts. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Final Exam: The final exam is closed book and closed notes. The final exam is scheduled for 30 April 2013 from 5:30-7:30pm in Ustler Hall 0108. Contact Prof. Wulff by 28 March if you have a scheduling conflict with this date.

Final Research Paper: For your final research paper, you will design a study (either an experiment or a corpus-based study) in which you test a specific hypothesis regarding second language acquisition. If you design an experimental study, you have to complete a pilot study with at least 10 participants by the time the final draft of the research paper is due; if you design a corpus-based study, you will have to have retrieved all relevant data from the corpus you are using, and carried out an analysis of at least a representative sample of the retrieved data by the time the final draft of the research paper is due. You must make an appointment with Prof. Wulff within the first four weeks of the semester to discuss your topic.

Research paper prospectus: This is to be a professional style abstract of your research paper. The research paper prospectus is due as a hard copy on 28 February before class starts. The prospectus should not exceed 2 pages (1 inch margins, 12-point Times New Roman font, single-spaced).

First draft research paper: This is to be a pre-final version of your research paper, which means that it should comprise the following sections: an Introduction section in which you explain and justify the research topic, and outline your hypotheses; a Literature Review section in which you briefly and succinctly summarize the relevant literature on your topic; and a Methods section in which you detail your research methodology. The first draft of the research paper may or may not include Results and Discussion sections, depending on the progress you have made up until the due date for the first draft of the research paper on your data collection and analysis. If you have not completed your data collection and analysis by the date the first draft of the research paper is due, include a brief account of your progress to date, and explicate potential challenges you are facing with completing your data collection and/or analysis. The first draft of your research paper is due as a hard copy on 4 April before class starts.

Final draft research paper: The final draft of your research paper should comprise all major sections of a scientific research article (Introduction, Literature Review, Methods, Results, and Discussion). The final draft of your research paper is due by 5pm on 29 April as a hard copy; it can be submitted to my departmental mail box, my office, or the main office of the Linguistics department. The final draft should be between 8 and 12 pages long, excluding references (1 inch margins, 12-point Times New Roman font, single-spaced).

Formatting and style guide: All written assignments must follow APA style guidelines (see <http://www.apastyle.org/>).

Your total score determines your final grade on this grading scale:

100-93=A; 92.9-90=A-; 89.9-87=B+; 86.9-83=B; 82.9-80=B-; 79.9-77=C+; 76.9-73=C(S); 72.9-70=C-(U); 69.9-67=D+; 66.9-63=D; 62.9-60=D-; 59.9-0=E

For information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points, please go to <<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>>.

Extra Credit / Make-Up Exams

There are no extra credit opportunities in this course. If you have three or more excused absences, please contact me to discuss the possibility of a make-up exam or equivalent. You cannot make up for unexcused absences.

Classroom Etiquette

Please turn off cellular phones during class. Please make every effort to arrive to class on time. Being more than 7 minutes late to the start of the course will count as an absence on each third occasion of such tardiness.

Required Materials

There is one required text book for this class: Ortega, Lourdes. 2009. *Understanding Second Language Acquisition*. London: Hodder Education [ORT]. All other course materials are available on ELearning or in class.

Accommodations

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. For more information, please go to <<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>>.

Academic Integrity

The UF Honor Code, which all students are required to abide by, reads:

We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. 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." For more information on the UF Honor Code, please go to: <<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcode.php>>.

Course Schedule

Date	Content	Read for that day:
1/10	Introduction: What is SLA? Organizational Matters Research Methods I: Basic Experimental Design	
1/17	No Class	
1/24	Research Methods II: Corpus Linguistics	
1/31	Research Methods III: Basic Statistics	
2/7	Age	ORT ch. 2
2/14	Crosslinguistic Influences	ORT ch. 3
2/21	The Linguistic Environment	ORT ch. 4
2/28	Cognition	ORT ch. 5
	Research Paper Prospectus Due	
3/14	Development of Learner Language	ORT ch. 6
3/21	Aptitude	ORT ch. 7
3/28	Motivation	ORT ch. 8
4/4	Affect and other Individual Differences Social Dimensions of L2 Learning	ORT ch. 9 ORT ch. 10
	First Draft Research Paper Due	
4/11	Final research project presentations I	
4/18	Final research project presentations II	
4/29	Final Draft Research Paper Due	
4/30	5:30-7:30pm Final exam	