LIN6720 Introduction to Second Language Acquisition (Spring 2025)

Class meeting times: Wednesdays 1:55-4:55pm (TUR 2350)
Instructor: Stefanie Wulff, Ph.D.
Office hours: Wednesdays 12:30-1:30pm in Turlington 4131D or by appointment
Email: swulff@ufl.edu // Phone: 352-294-7455

Class Meeting Times

This is a face-to-face class, which means that we will meet regularly on Tuesdays and Thursdays as listed above under "class meeting times".

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.

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 both for research purposes and to inform ESL teaching practice.

Course Credit Requirements and Grading

Exams: 33% (11% each). There are 3 exams. Each exam counts towards 11% towards your final grade. The exams will be due on the dates listed on the course schedule and are submitted on Canvas.

Recorded Recent Research Presentation: 20%. Groups of one or more students will prepare a video recording of a published research article (the articles are all available on CANVAS). Presentations should not exceed 15 minutes in length. The presentation should end with at least two discussion questions. For the recording, you can use Zoom, VoiceThread, or any other recording software that allows for free sharing of the recording via a link or file. Recorded research article presentations are due on the due dates as shown on the course schedule. Submit the link or file under the corresponding assignment on Canvas.

Recent Research Discussion Boards: 24% (3% each). You will participate in 8 Canvas Discussion Boards in which you watch a recorded presentation of a research article by a group of your peers, respond to questions as listed on the Discussion Board, and leave comments for peers as instructed on the Discussion Board. The Discussion Board responses are due on the due dates shown on the course schedule and are submitted on Canvas.

Recorded Theory Presentation: 23%. Groups of one or more students will prepare a video recording of a summary of one chapter in the [VKW] textbook (see Technology and Materials Requirements below for a listing of the two required textbooks for this class). Presentations should not exceed 25 minutes in length. For the

recording, you can use Zoom, VoiceThread, or any other recording software that allows for free sharing of the recording via a link. Recorded research article presentations are due on the due dates as shown on the course schedule. Submit the link or file under the corresponding assignment on Canvas.

Attendance and Participation

Attendance is mandatory for all class meetings. You are allowed to miss up to three 50-minute class periods (lectures and TA sections combined) without any excuse. Each further unexcused absence will lower your grade by one level (e.g. from an A to A-). Excused absences must be consistent with university policies in: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

Extra Credit and Make-up Assignments

Students can earn up to 2 extra credit points by participating in experiments in the departments of Linguistics, Spanish & Portuguese, and Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences by 24 April 2025. For a list of studies that qualify, see the SONA website https://ufl-slhs.sona-systems.com/ . Please check regularly as the study listing will change throughout the semester. For details on how to use SONA, see this document. If you choose not to participate or do not qualify for any of the studies, you can contact Dr. Wulff for an alternative assignment to earn up to 2 extra credit points.

If you have missed more than three 50-minute class periods with an excuse, please contact Dr. Wulff to discuss the possibility of a make-up exam or equivalent. You cannot make up for unexcused absences.

Grading Scale

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/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies>.

I grade and give feedback on any course assignments as promptly as possible, within a week at the latest. For more information on how each assignment will be graded, please read the Grading Rubrics page on Canvas.

Classroom Etiquette

Please switch your cell phone to silent during class. If we are meeting on Zoom, mute your microphone unless you are speaking to minimize background noise for everyone. Please make every effort to arrive to class on time (even if it is on Zoom). Being more than 10 minutes late to the start of the course will count as an absence on each third occasion of such tardiness. We will familiarize ourselves with other rules of "netiquette" in the first week of classes; a summary of the netiquette rules is on Canvas.

Technology and Materials Requirements

Instructional materials for this course consist of only those materials specifically reviewed, selected, and assigned by the instructor(s). The instructor(s) is only responsible for these instructional materials.

There are two required textbooks for this class:

Ortega, Lourdes. 2009. *Understanding Second Language Acquisition*. London: Hodder Education [ORT]. A pdf of the book and all other course materials will be available on CANVAS.

VanPatten, Bill, Gregory Keating and Stefanie Wulff. 2020. Theories in Second Language Acquisition. 3rd edition. New York: Routledge [VKW]. Please purchase this book. Make sure to get the third edition.

To participate fully in this course, you will need to be able to access the Canvas course site.

Student 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 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>.

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-conduct-honor-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.

Software Use

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Student Privacy

Federal laws protect your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. See http://registrar.ufl.edu/catalog0910/policies/regulationferpa.html for more information.

COVID-19

In response to COVID-19, the following recommendations 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 and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit one.uf for screening/testing and vaccination opportunities. If you are sick, stay home. 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 to be evaluated. 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.

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.

Campus Resources: Health and Wellness

- U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit the U Matter, We Care website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the Student Health Care Center website.
- University Police Department: Visit UF Police Department website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.
- GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the GatorWell website or call 352-273- 4450.

Campus Resources: Academic Resources

- E-learning technical support: contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail (helpdesk@ufl.edu).
- Career Connections Center: career assistance and counseling services, website, Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601.
- Library Support: website, various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- Center for Teaching Excellence: website, Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352-392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
- Writing Studio: website, 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- Academic complaints: Office of the Ombuds; visit the Complaint Portal webpage for more information.
- Enrollment management complaints (registrar, financial aid, admissions): view the Student Complaint Procedure webpage for more information.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic(s)
1/15	Organizational matters // Introduce yourself Lecture: Key Terms
1/22	Lecture: Age (read chapter 2 [ORT]) Analyzing learner data (introduction) (transcripts)
1/29	Lecture: Age *ctd.* Analyzing learner data (error analysis) (interlanguage analysis) Recorded Theory Presentation Group 1 (Universal Grammar) and Group 2 (Usage-based Approaches) due
2/5	Lecture: Cross-linguistic influences (read chapter 3 [ORT]) In-class Discussion: Universal Grammar (read chapter 2 [VKW]) Recorded Theory Presentation Group 3 (Skill Acquisition Theory) and Group 4 (Input Processing Theory) due
2/12	In-class Discussion: Usage-based Approaches (read chapter 4 [VKW]) Review for Exam 1 Recorded Recent Research Presentations due Exam 1 (online; opens 2/13 at 6am for 24 hours)
2/19	Lecture: The linguistic environment (read chapter 4 [ORT]) In-class Discussion: Skill Acquisition Theory (read chapter 5 [VKW]) Recorded Theory Presentation Group 5 (The Interaction Approach) and Group 6 (The Declarative-Procedural Model) due Recent Research Discussion Board 1 due (online)
2/26	Lecture: Cognition (read chapter 5 [ORT]) In-class Discussion: Input Processing Theory (read chapter 6 [VKW]) Recorded Theory Presentation and Group 7 (Complex Dynamic Systems Theory) and Group 8 (Sociocultural Theory) due Recent Research Discussion Board 2 due (online)
3/5	Lecture: Cognition *ctd.* Analyzing learner data (complexity) Recent Research Discussion Board 3 due (online)
3/12	Spring Break (no class)
3/19	Lecture: Development of learner language (read chapter 6 [ORT]) Analyzing learner data (developmental stages: negation) Recent Research Discussion Board 4 due (online)
3/26	In-class Discussion: The Interaction Approach (read chapter 9 [VKW]) Analyzing learner data (developmental stages: question formation) Review for Exam 2 Recent Research Discussion Board 5 due (online) Exam 2 (online; opens 3/27 at 6am for 24 hours)
4/2	Lecture: Aptitude (read chapter 7 [ORT] to prepare) In-class Discussion: The Declarative/Procedural Model (read chapter 7 [VKW]) Recent Research Discussion Board 6 due (online)

4/9	Lecture: Motivation (read chapter 8 [ORT]) AMTB // AIR self-determination scale form and user guide In-class Discussion: Complex Dynamic Systems Theory (read chapter 11 [VKW]) Recent Research Discussion Board 7 due (online)
4/16	Lecture: Affect and other individual differences (read chapter 9 [ORT]) Big Five Personality test In-class Discussion: Sociocultural Theory (read chapter 10 [VKW]) Recent Research Discussion Board 8 due (online)
4/23	Analyzing learner data (communication strategies) Review for Exam 3 Exam 3 (online; open 4/24 at 6am for 24 hours)