



UNIVERSIDAD DISTRITAL
FRANCISCO JOSÉ DE CALDAS

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School of Sciences and Education

MA in Applied Linguistics to TEFL

Seminar on Theories of Second Language Acquisition (SLA)

Second semester - 2016

COURSE PROFESSOR

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ROOM

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DESCRIPTION

The seminar of Theories of Second Language Acquisition (SLA) offers an overview of theories and methods in the areas of second language acquisition and foreign language learning. It provides students with a historical overview of the dominant paradigms influencing second language acquisition theory and research. Then the emphasis shifts to the contribution of more contemporary psycho and socio-linguistic perspectives on the processes involved in second language learning and bilingual speakers in multi-cultural contexts. The paradigm in which discussions and reflections will take place is the post-colonialist view. Post-colonial theory looks at issues of power, economics, politics, religion, and culture and how these elements work in relation to colonial hegemony (western colonizers controlling the colonized (Purdue, 2016).

The seminar aims to examine research on second language acquisition historically. It relates the direction of research and practice to the particular linguistic theories that dominated the field and critically examines the relationships between development in the field and the social, psychological and linguistic theories that informed them. It seeks to extend students' awareness of what constitutes the field of second language research through insights provided by the field of psycholinguistics and sociolinguistics into the relationship between language acquisition, language use, and social context. The seminar explores the connections between language acquisition, language use and linguistic and cultural identity. It encourages students to view the process of second language acquisition as a natural developmental process where individual and social factors are interrelated.

COURSE GOALS

By studying this seminar, we anticipate that you will develop:

1. an enhanced understanding of SLA theories and research in relation to the broader field of Applied Linguistics
2. an enhanced understanding of how SLA theories and research have evolved
3. an enhanced understanding of the role of sociolinguistics in contemporary SLA research
4. a critical overview of “new” research trends and SLA issues
5. a critical awareness of the implications of locating and doing SLA research under specific conceptual paradigms

TOPICS

1. First and second language acquisition
2. Theories of second language acquisition
3. Learning theories
4. Input, interaction and second language acquisition
5. Individual differences in SLA
6. Interlanguage
7. The role of formal instruction in SLA
8. Language learning strategies
9. Socio-cultural approaches to SLA: The post-colonial studies
10. Cognitive and affective factors in SLA

METHODOLOGY

This seminar draws on participants’ presentations of specific research-based and theory-based articles about theories of second language acquisition. Active participation is recommended based on participants’ language teaching experiences and on the partial construction of their MA research. Participants are required to write reaction papers to the theories presented in the seminar establishing clear links to the ideas of language learning addressed in their research projects in terms of innovations or pedagogical designs.

ASSESSMENT

Criteria/Activity	Description	Weight/Percentage
Class assignments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oral presentations of the Reading assignments.• Presentation of tasks/practical teaching strategies.	30%
Reaction paper 1: Theories of SLA	Reflective essay	35%
Reaction Paper 2: Socio-cultural approaches to SLA	Argumentative essay	35%

COURSE PLANNER

Week	Topic	Sub-topic	Assigned reading
Week 1 Aug. 11 th	Orientation	Orientation Exploring some beliefs about SLA	None
Week 2 Aug. 18 th	Course overview	❖ Classroom SLA Research and Second Language Teaching. ❖ Language and learning ❖ Key issues in SLA Video (why do we talk) BBC	❖ Lightbown, P. (2000) Classroom SLA, pp. 431-462 ❖ Ellis, R (1999). Understanding SLA. OUP ❖ Krashen (1999) Language Acquisition
Week 3 Aug. 25 th	Introduction and Early SLA research	❖ Behaviourism ❖ Cognitive Theory ❖ Creative constructivism ❖ Interactionist View ❖ Critical Applied Linguistics.	❖ Lighthown and Spada Chapter 2 ❖ Myths about bilingualism
Week 4 Sept. 1 st	Second language acquisition	❖ Theories of SLA	❖ Ellis, Rod (1998)
Week 5 Sept. 8 th	Social interaction and first and second language acquisition negotiation	❖ Mother and foreign talk ❖ Foreign talk and adult interactions.	❖ Ellis, R. Chapter 7 pp. 243-291 ❖ Audio/video taping a child/adult/adolescent ❖ Krashen (1998) Applications of Psycholinguistic Research
Week 6 Sept. 15 th	Input information processing	❖ Input ❖ Intake ❖ Attention ❖ Noticing	❖ Muñoz, (2000) ❖ Bigelow (2000)
Week 7 Sept. 22 nd	Focus on form Corrective feedback	❖ Patterns of corrective feedback ❖ Preemptive focus on form	❖ Panova and Lister ❖ Ellis, et al.
Week 8 Sept. 29 th	Interlanguage	❖ Stages of interlanguage development ❖ Sources of error ❖ Communication strategies	❖ Ellis, R. Chapter 4 pp. 168-187
Week 9 Oct. 6 th	Interlanguage	❖ Language transference and interference	❖ Selinker. Interlanguage <i>First paper due</i>
Week 10 October 13th ASOCOPI CONFERENCE			
Week 11 Oct. 20 th	Language learning strategies	❖ Metacognitive, cognitive, social and affective strategies	❖ Chamot pp. 10-33 ❖ Chamot pp. 157-178
Week 12	Socio-cultural	❖ Cultural stereotypes	❖ Holliday, A. pp. 237-264

Oct. 27 th	approaches to SLA. The post-colonial view	❖ Acculturation ❖ Social distance ❖ Second Vs. foreign language learning.	❖ Kramsch, C. (1999) Chapter 1 ❖ Rico, T. C (2012) Intercultural Communicative Competence
Week 13 Oct. 27 th	Cultural identity	❖ Culture ❖ Language and rapport	❖ Kramsch, C(2002) Chapters 3 and 6
Week 14 Nov. 3 rd	A Vigotskyan perspective of SLA	❖ The zone of proximal development ❖ Constructivists views ❖ Scaffolding	❖ Vigotsky and Education. Edited by Moll
Week 15 Nov. 10 th	Second language acquisition and literacy	❖ Definitions of literacy ❖ Implications	❖ Reder (1994) ❖ Ramirez
Week 16 Nov. 17 th	The role of formal instruction Oral presentations of final paper	❖ Impact ❖ Pedagogical implications	❖ Ellis, R. , chapter 10 Final paper due Oral presentations
Week 17 Nov 24 th	Oral presentations of final paper	❖ Oral presentations of final paper	  Oral presentations
Week 18 Dec. 1 st	Hand in grades		

JOURNALS AND DATA BASES

Colombian Applied Linguistics Journal
Profile
Folios
ÍKALA
Lenguaje
Harvard Educational Review
Modern Language Journal
Studies in second language acquisition
TESOL Quarterly

ProQuest
Scopus
ScienceDirect
SpringerLink

ACADEMIC EVENTS

- ASOCOPI CONFERENCE. October 13, 14 & 15, 2016

ADDITIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

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August, 2016 – Dr . Carlos Rico Troncoso.