EN 333: Introduction to Second Language Acquisition

TR 11-12:15  
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Description of the course:

English 333 will provide you with an introduction to current theory and research on language learning. While consideration will be given to both first and second language acquisition, our primary emphasis will be on second/foreign language acquisition. Though many of the examples involve the acquisition of English, most if not all of what we read can be applied to other languages as well. We will consider such questions as: What are some current theories and models of language acquisition? What factors are involved in the acquisition process? How do learners develop ways of communicating in a second language? How is language learning situated, and how do various contexts of use affect learners’ use and development of the second language?

Requirements:

Undergrads, special students:  
Grads:  
2 take-home examinations. The questions will be based on the readings, lectures, and discussions. The first exam will be given out at mid-semester and will cover material to that date. The second exam, given out toward the semester’s end, will cover material from mid-semester to the end.

70%  
60%  
20%  
10%  
Not required  
20%  
Small research project on language learning (done collaboratively or individually).

EN 333/Spring 2004, cont’d

Due by April 27.

10%  
10%  
Together with several other students, lead a discussion of some material, linking it to our other readings. (The material might consist of something the class is reading, or an article that I give to you to have us discuss.)
Course materials:


**Packet of readings:** available at StudentPrint, basement of Memorial Union. (open M-F 9:30-6:30; tel.262-6216.) Contents of the packet are listed at the end of this syllabus.

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**Calendar:**

**WEEKS 1-2**  
1/20, 1/22
1/27, 1/29  
Rdg for 1/22: Gass & Selinker, Chapt 1
“ for 1/27: Gass & Selinker, Chapt 4

**Homework assignment #1 due Tues. 1/27**

**WEEKS 3-4**  
2/3, 2/5
2/10, 2/12
Rdg for 2/3: Gass & Selinker, Chapt 2
“ for 2/10: Gass & Selinker, Chapt 3

**Homework assignment #2 due Tues.2/10**

*Week 3: Discussion leaders Thurs.2/5.*
*Week 4: Discussion leaders Thurs.2/12.*

**WEEK 5**  
2/17, 2/19
Rdg for 2/17: Gass & Selinker, Chapt 5

*Week 5: Discussion leaders Thurs.2/19.*
WEEKS 6-7  LINGUISTIC FOCUS ON SLA
2/24; 2/26
3/2; 3/4  Rdg for 2/24: Gass & Selinker, Chapt 6
   “ for 3/2: Gass & Selinker, Chapt 7
   “ for 3/4: Flynn & Lust (packet)

Week 6: Discussion leaders Thurs.2/26

** Exam #1 given out Tues.3/2; due Tues. 3/9.

WEEK 8  SEVERAL SLA THEORIES; INPUT, OUTPUT, INTERACTION
   “ for 3/11: Gass & Selinker, Chapt 10

Week 8: Discussion leaders Thurs.3/11.

---SPRING BREAK---

WEEKS 9-10  SLA IN INTERACTION, cont’d; SLA IN CONTEXT
3/23; 3/25
3/30; 4/1  Rdg for 3/23: Gass & Selinker, Chapt 9
   “ for 3/25: Duff, Wong, & Early (packet)
   “ for 3/30: Norton (packet)
   “ for 4/1: Harklau (packet)

Week 9: Discussion leaders Thurs.3/25
Week 10: Discussion leaders Thurs.4/1

Homework assignment #3 due Tues.3/30

WEEKS 11-12  LANGUAGE ACQUISITION IN CLASSROOMS
4/6; 4/8
4/13; 4/15  Rdg for 4/6: Gass & Selinker, Chapt 11
   “ for 4/13: Duff (packet)
   “ for 4/15: Toohey (packet)

Week 11: Discussion leaders Thurs.4/8
Week 12: Discussion leaders Thurs.4/15
Homework assignment #4 due Tues.4/13

WEEKS 13-15  SOCIOCULTURAL PERSPECTIVES ON SLA
4/20; 4/22
5/4; 5/6    “  for 4/22: Canagarajah (packet)
            “ for 4/27: Lantolf & Pavlenko (packet)
            “ for 4/29: Miller (packet)
            “ for 5/4:  Ibrahim (packet)
            “ for 5/6:  Gass & Selinker, Chapt 14

Week 13: Discussion leaders Thurs. 4/22

**Research projects due by Tues. 4/27.

**Exam #2 given out Tues. 5/4; due Tues. 5/11. (in my 7th fl.H.C.White mailbox)

FINAL GET-TOGETHER: MONDAY, 12:25 p.m., MAY 10