



## Core Course Descriptions

### **82-783 Second Language Acquisition: Theories and Research | 9 Units**

This course introduces students to the field of Second Language Acquisition (SLA) in order to provide them with an understanding of the way in which second languages are learned and acquired. The course will survey various theories of second language acquisition (e.g., Universal Grammar, Connectionism, usage-based approach, Interaction Hypothesis, sociocultural theory, language socialization, and the complex dynamic systems perspective), and their claims will be examined in the light of recent research findings. The course will also examine the impact of internal and external factors on second language acquisition and development. Some topics include: the role of learning environment for language acquisition (e.g., study abroad settings, technology-mediated contexts), explanations for different success among second language learners, variations in second language use, and the effect of classroom instruction in second language acquisition.

### **82-793 Teaching Methodologies for the Foreign Language Classroom | 9 Units**

This course includes a survey of pedagogical theory and practice in foreign and second language instruction, with a primary emphasis on American contexts, but with some intercultural components where applicable (traditional language instruction in classrooms in Germany and China, for example, and how those conventions might affect learner perception of contemporary American practice). Methodologies surveyed might include grammar-based instruction; the audio-lingual method; Total Physical Response; topical-functional architectures; and communicative, constructivist, and interactionist approaches. The course is taught in tandem with 82-893 Teaching Modern Languages and Cultures (see below), which allows for multiple observations of experienced teachers in different target-language contexts.

### **82-893 Teaching Modern Languages and Cultures I | 9 units**

This course is intended to be taken in tandem with Teaching Methodologies for the Foreign Language Classroom. Students will initially prioritize observation and analysis of the pedagogical techniques of multiple teachers in several languages at the elementary level. In a second phase, students will select a cooperating teacher to shadow in their language of specialization, and

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prepare and deliver one or more lessons based on curricular needs. Classroom meetings will be dedicated to sharing and critiquing lesson plans in the context of the targeted curricula, as well as to presentations by program faculty to help students prepare for the professional requirements of the field.

## **82-894 Teaching Modern Languages and Cultures II | 9 Units**

This course will allow for a semester-long experience working in tandem with a single teacher in the language of specialization, including review of syllabus/curriculum design, teaching philosophy and techniques, lesson planning, and integration of appropriate media and technologies. The student will be asked to deliver instruction based on the existing syllabus, and to create and deliver a new module appropriate for the level and focus of the class. This practicum is designed to build on the teaching experience of the first semester practicum, and the course assignment is determined in consultation with the Program Advisor and faculty in the language area of specialization.

## **82-888 Language Acquisition and Technology | 9 Units**

This course is designed to examine the affordances and the effectiveness of instructional technologies in the teaching of second or foreign languages (L2) and learn how to design language-learning experiences that can be enhanced by or articulated around a variety of technological tools. While avoiding "toolism" (i.e., I do it because I can) the course will foster an understanding of how technology can transform and improve pedagogical practices to amplify L2 development in L2 instruction.

## **82-732/495 Topic in Applied SLA: Issues in TESOL | Required for ESL/TESOL | 9 units**

In this course, students will receive a broad overview of the pedagogic and sociocultural issues that Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) instructors encounter in classrooms today, in a variety of contexts. Students will gain in-depth knowledge of the state of the art in TESOL today. Students will be required to familiarize themselves with and be prepared to discuss issues in TESOL, including but not limited to methodology, teacher education, the role of culture and intercultural communication, and specific challenges, such as modifying course



content to focus on academic language. The course will be conducted as a seminar with students completing readings outside class and engaging in reflection through class discussions and electronic discussion forums. The main assignments for the course will be case histories of diverse populations of students, and a final annotated bibliography. Students will gain in-depth knowledge of the state of the art in TESOL today.

## Elective Course List

The elective list is intended to offer the potential for students with primary interest in any of the four program foci (SLA, Language Pedagogy, Cultural Studies, Technology-Enhanced Learning) to do further study in that area of interest, or to branch out into language-related courses in other disciplines, especially in psychology and linguistics.

- 82-889 Individual Differences in Second Language Learning (ML)
- 82-388/878 Understanding Second Language Fluency (ML)
- 82-488 Second Language Acquisition in a Study Abroad Context (ML)
- 82-885 Qualitative Methods in SLA (ML)
- 82-888 Pragmatics and Second Language Acquisition (ML)
- 82-888 Implicit and Explicit Language Learning (ML)
- 82-888 Second Language Reading (ML)
- 82-770 Analysis of Language in a Global Context (ML)
- 82-781/281 Tutoring for Community Outreach (ML)
- 82-888 Sociocultural Theory and L2 Development (ML)
- 82-888/585 East Asian Psycholinguistics (ML)
- 82-888 Pragmatics Development (ML)
- 82-888 Language Variation and SLA (ML)
- 82-701 & 82-702 Cultural Studies Elective - Graduate Level (ML)
- 76-836 Language Theories (English)
- 76-824 History, Theory, and Practice of Writing Instruction (English)
- 76-786 Language and Culture (English)
- 76-718 Communicating in the Global Marketplace (English)
- 85-721 Language and Thought (Psychology)
- 80-681 Meaning and Language (Philosophy)
- 80-786 Words and Word Formation: Introduction to Morphology (Philosophy)

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University of Pittsburgh graduate courses are available through cross-registration. Some examples of available courses in Instruction and Learning (IL) and Linguistics (Ling):

- 2203 Language and Language Systems (IL)
- 2239 Theory and Practice in Teaching New Media and Literacies (IL)
- 2253 Principles and Practice of Foreign Language Testing and Assessment (IL)
- 2250 Technology in Foreign Language Education (IL)
- 2257 Teaching English Language Learners (IL)
- 2267 Sociolinguistics (Ling)
- 2578 Phonetics And Phonemics (Ling)
- 2761 Discourse Analysis (Ling)
- 2862 Introduction to Semantic Theory (Ling)
- 2773 Morphology (Ling)
- 2860 Introduction to Historical Linguistics (Ling)

We welcome your inquiries regarding the Masters in Applied Second Language Acquisition. Contact [ModernLangGradmail@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:ModernLangGradmail@andrew.cmu.edu), for more information.