

## Second Language Acquisition

### Course Description

This course is intended to provide an overview of linguistic research on second language (L2) learning, such as language development in children and adults; the acquisition of phonological, morphological, and syntactic systems; the role of both parent and child in the acquisition of communicative competence. This course will pay special attention to the most important issues of second language acquisition. More importantly, this course will discuss the implications of research on L2 for foreign language learning. The course will thus explore the multiple aspects of this area, including theoretical background; the nature of language learning; styles and strategies; personality factors; sociocultural factors; communicative competence; interlanguage; contrastive and error analysis; the learning of various language skills (listening, speaking, reading, writing); and recent developments in all of these areas.

### Required Course Book

Brown, H. Douglas. *Principles of Language Learning and Teaching*, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. London: Prentice Hall, 2006.

### References

- Ellis, Rod. *The Study of Second Language Acquisition*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. Oxford University Press, 2008.
- Ellis, Rod. *Understanding Second Language Acquisition*, 12<sup>th</sup> impression. Oxford University Press, 1999.
- Larsen-Freeman, Diana, & Long, Michael, H. *An Introduction to Second Language Acquisition Research*, 9<sup>th</sup> impression. New York: Longman, 1997.
- Brown, H. Douglas, & Gonzo, Susan. *Readings on Second Language Acquisition*. London: Prentice-Hall, 1995.

### Course Outline

- Week 1: Overview of SLA; Popular ideas about language learning: facts and opinions
- Week 2: Current issues in SLA; Age and acquisition
- Week 3: Cross-linguistic influence and learner language; Class presentation;
- Week 4: **Mid-term exam**; Strategies & motivations
- Week 5: First language acquisition: the role of L1
- Week 6: Human learning & learning styles; Sociocultural factors; Personality factors
- Week 7: Communicative competence; Theories of SLA; Class presentation;
- Week 8: **Final exam**