Second Language Acquisition

Director, Division of World Languages, Literatures and Cultures
• Jill N. Beckman (Linguistics)

Director, Second Language Acquisition
• Chuanren Ke (Asian and Slavic Languages and Literatures/ International Programs)

Graduate degree: PhD in second language acquisition
Faculty: https://flare.uiowa.edu/people
Website: https://flare.uiowa.edu/graduate/phd-second-language-acquisition

Second language acquisition (SLA) is a multidisciplinary field whose goal is to understand the processes that underlie non-native language learning. The doctoral program in second language acquisition draws from varied academic disciplines, among them linguistics, psychology, psycholinguistics, sociology, sociolinguistics, discourse analysis, conversation analysis, and education.

The interdisciplinary PhD in second language acquisition is sponsored by Foreign Language Acquisition Research and Education (FLARE). More than 20 faculty members affiliated with SLA are drawn from various departments in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the College of Education.

Second Language Acquisition is one of the units in the Division of World Languages, Literatures and Cultures.

Programs

Graduate Program of Study

Major
• Doctor of Philosophy in Second Language Acquisition

Facilities

The Center for Language and Culture Learning provides a wide variety of facilities and services to the Division of World Languages, Literatures and Cultures (DWLLC), including a 24-computer Instructional Technology Center (ITC) and five All-In-One Studios/small group study rooms equipped with video production and editing software, a Computer Assisted Language Learning Lab with 25 computers integrated with Sanako software for language practice, and virtual reality hardware and development space.

The center provides spaces for quiet study as well as for group meetings. Departments, programs, and student organizations are welcome to host conversation hours, film nights, study groups, workshops, and more. Peer education services include peer tutoring programs in many of the languages taught in DWLLC, with both in-person and online availability, as well as the Directed Independent Language Study, through which faculty, staff, or students can be paired with a tutor to learn a language not taught in the DWLLC. Tutors are trained to use the Three Ms for Effective Learning, including developing a growth mindset, using memory strategies to retain knowledge, and reflecting on learning gains.

Second Language Acquisition Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLA:3302</td>
<td>Introduction to Chinese Linguistics</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLA:3400</td>
<td>Articulatory and Acoustic Phonetics</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLA:4300</td>
<td>Introduction to Spanish Syntax</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLA:4301</td>
<td>Introduction to Spanish Phonology</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLA:4401</td>
<td>Methods of Teaching English as a Second Language</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLA:5000</td>
<td>Teaching and Learning Languages</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLA:5010</td>
<td>Introduction to Syntax</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLA:5020</td>
<td>Introduction to Phonology</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLA:5401</td>
<td>First Language Acquisition</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLA:6010</td>
<td>Syntactic Theory</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLA:6011</td>
<td>Phonological Theory</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLA:6301</td>
<td>Topics in Spanish Language Acquisition</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SLA:6302 Topics in Comparative Romance Linguistics 3 s.h.
Comparative study of phonology, morphology, or syntax of the main Romance languages as informed by linguistic theory; diachronic or synchronic perspective. Taught in English. Recommendations: additional graduate coursework in linguistics. Same as LING:6190, SPAN:6190.

SLA:6303 Spanish Phonology 3 s.h.
Modern approaches to synchronic phonology as applied to Spanish; focus on traditional descriptive problems, recent generative analyses. Taught in Spanish. Requirements: phonology or linguistics course. Same as SPAN:6110.

SLA:6304 Spanish Syntax 3 s.h.
Spanish syntactic constructions examined in framework of selected syntactic theory; emphasis on development of syntactic argumentation. Taught in Spanish. Requirements: one course in syntax. Same as SPAN:6120.

SLA:6452 Topics in Second Language Acquisition 3 s.h.
Overview of current second-language acquisition research in the generative linguistic framework; focus on characterizing second language learners' linguistic competence and how it is constrained by principles of universal grammar. Offered fall semesters. Prerequisites: (LING:3010 or LING:5010) and (LING:3020 or LING:5020). Same as LING:6080.

SLA:6500 Graduate Seminar in Multilingual Education 3 s.h.
Theoretical perspectives of pivotal research issues at the forefront of foreign language education; systems available to foreign language professionals for disseminating research. Same as EDTL:6480.

SLA:6501 Bi/Multilingual Literacies 3 s.h.
Critical sociocultural perspectives on literacy, including dynamic literacies people practice to read the word and the world; examination of theoretical, practical, and empirical research that discusses the political, ideological, cultural, and historical nature of bi/multilingual literacy learning. Same as EDTL:6484.

SLA:6502 Principles of Course Design for Second Language Instruction 3 s.h.
Contemporary views of second language curriculum design; guidelines necessary for the creation of prototypical curriculum units to be transposed into classroom-ready forms; for individuals interested in foreign language materials development. Same as EDTL:6497.

SLA:6503 Fundamentals of Second Language Assessment 3 s.h.
How to write language tests; discussion of fundamental issues in development of new tests or selection of existing tests. Same as EDTL:6400.

SLA:6504 Second Language Program Management 3 s.h.
Preparation for supervising, administering foreign language programs at all levels; for precollegiate language teachers and graduate students. Same as EDTL:6402.

SLA:6506 Multilingual Education and Applied Linguistics 3 s.h.
Introduction to research in language teaching and learning, drawing on theories and research in applied linguistics, sociolinguistics, anthropology, and psychology; students gain understanding of fundamentals in second language acquisition, educational linguistics, applied linguistics, and methods used in teaching and learning second/foreign languages; applications and implications of research considered when reviewing multilingual education policy and practice. Same as ASIA:6483, EDTL:6483.

SLA:6970 Cultural Curriculum 3 s.h.
Culture's role in foreign/second language teaching; definition, pedagogy, assessment, and materials that allow culture to be taught and learned. Same as EDTL:6409.

SLA:7020 Readings in Second Language Acquisition arr.
SLA:7025 Special Projects in Second Language Acquisition arr.