Second Language Acquisition

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

Director, Second Language Acquisition
• Chuanren Ke

Graduate degree: Ph.D. in second language acquisition
Faculty: https://flare.uiowa.edu/affiliated-faculty
Website: https://flare.uiowa.edu/second-language-acquisition-phd-program

Courses

Second Language Acquisition Courses

SLA:3302 Introduction to Chinese Linguistics 3 s.h.
Aspects of modern Chinese linguistics, such as Chinese phonology, syntax, pedagogical grammar, history of the language. Taught in English. Same as CHIN:3302, LING:3302.

SLA:3400 Articulatory and Acoustic Phonetics 3 s.h.
Production and transcription of sounds in human languages; physics of sound, computer analysis of speech sounds. Offered fall semesters. Same as LING:3005.

SLA:4300 Introduction to Spanish Syntax 3 s.h.
Basic principles of generative syntax as applied to analysis of Spanish syntactic structure; extensive syntactic analysis. Taught in Spanish. Prerequisites: SPAN:3100. Same as SPAN:4150.

SLA:4301 Introduction to Spanish Phonology 3 s.h.
Sound patterns of Spanish; how various theoretical approaches solve basic problems in Spanish phonology; identification of linguistic universals, how they are manifested in the sound structure of Spanish. Taught in Spanish. Same as SPAN:4100.

SLA:4401 Methods of Teaching English as a Second Language 3 s.h.
Observations of ESL and intensive English classes at the University; design and presentation of short lessons, text evaluation, demonstrations of innovative approaches of the last decade; materials. Offered spring semesters. Prerequisites: LING:3005 and LING:4040. Same as LING:4050.

SLA:5000 Teaching and Learning Languages 3 s.h.
Readings in pedagogical theory and practice, second language acquisition; experience designing activities for teaching and assessment with critiques based on current theories and approaches; development of reflective practices toward one's language teaching. Taught in English. Same as FREN:5000, GRMN:5001, SPAN:5000, WLLC:5000.

SLA:5010 Introduction to Syntax 3 s.h.
Methods and argumentation for formal analysis of sentence structure through induction from language data of central concepts and relations; hypothesis testing, empirical bases of theoretical concepts. Corequisites: LING:5000. Same as LING:5010.

SLA:5020 Introduction to Phonology 3 s.h.
Analysis of sound systems, focus on early generative phonological theory; extensive practice in analysis using data from a variety of languages; linguistic argumentation. Prerequisites: LING:3005. Same as LING:5020.

SLA:5401 First Language Acquisition 3 s.h.
Child language from a crosslinguistic perspective. Prerequisites: LING:3005 and (LING:4040 or LING:5010). Same as LING:5030.

SLA:6010 Syntactic Theory 3 s.h.
Current syntactic theory examined through analysis of data sets, readings in recent research; emphasis on argument construction, statement of formal principles. Offered spring semesters. Prerequisites: LING:5010. Same as LING:6010.

SLA:6011 Phonological Theory 3 s.h.
Post-SPE phonological theory, including autosegmental phonology, feature geometry, the syllable, optimality theory. Prerequisites: LING:5020. Same as LING:6020.

SLA:6301 Topics in Spanish Language Acquisition 3 s.h.
Theoretical linguistic approaches to monolingual, bilingual, and second language acquisition of Spanish and Portuguese; varied topics. Taught in Spanish. Requirements: at least one course in linguistics (e.g., general introduction to linguistics). Same as SPAN:6150.

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 Issues in Foreign Language 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 Reading in a Second Language 3 s.h.
Current theory, research, practice in second language reading field; role of textual features and the reader in reading comprehension. 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:6400.

**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 preservice 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:6901 Second Language Acquisition Research and Theory** 3 s.h.
Theories regarding success and failure in acquisition of second or subsequent languages; research, issues. Taught in English. Same as ASIA:6901, FREN:6901, JPNS:6901, SPAN:6901.

**SLA:6920 Multimedia and Second Language Acquisition** 3 s.h.
Combination of theory and practice regarding use of multimedia and technology to enhance foreign language teaching and second language acquisition research. Taught in English. Same as FREN:6920, GRMN:6920, SPAN:6920.

**SLA:6965 Topics in Second Language Acquisition: Writing** 3 s.h.
Theory, pedagogy, research, and assessment in second language writing. Taught in English. Same as RHET:6965, SPAN:6965.

**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.**

**SLA:7030 Ph.D. Thesis** arr.

**SLA:7401 Advanced Syntactic Theory** 2-3 s.h.
Recent developments in syntax; comparison of theories, argumentation, and uses of data. Prerequisites: LING:6010. Same as LING:7010.

**SLA:7404 Seminar: Problems in Linguistics** 2-3 s.h.
Intensive study of theoretical and practical problems. Same as LING:7090.

**SLA:7405 Teaching Chinese as a Second Language V: Seminar in Research and Design** 3 s.h.
Qualitative and quantitative research design theories and techniques. Taught in English. Prerequisites: CHIN:7401 and PSQF:4143. Same as CHIN:7405.

**SLA:7406 Teaching Chinese as a Second Language I: Theories and Research** 3 s.h.
Research, theory on acquisition of Chinese as a non-native language. Taught in English. Same as CHIN:7401.

**SLA:7804 Teaching Chinese as a Second Language IV: Testing and Assessment** 3 s.h.
Overview of goals, concepts, principles, research, and issues in assessment and testing of Chinese as a second language; knowledge of Chinese required. Taught in English. Same as CHIN:7404.