EN6463/4463, Studies in Second Language Acquisition

Course description
This course provides an introduction into theories and research that account for second and bilingual language acquisition. We will cover various theoretical perspectives, including linguistic, cognitive, interactionist, and sociocultural approaches to how languages are learned. We will also discuss non-linguistic factors that play a role in the learning process such as age, previously known languages, and attitude and motivation. Finally, we will consider how studies of learner identity, language ideologies, and social context complicate prior understandings of learning processes. Students will analyze, critically evaluate, and integrate classic and current work in these areas and consider to what extent these findings inform current language and education practices and policies.

Course objectives
By the end of the semester, you will be able to

- Compare and contrast theories about second language acquisition
- Identify individual and social factors that play a role in language learning
- Analyze speech production data from children and adults
- Understand and evaluate primary sources in the field of second language acquisition
- Summarize and critique empirical research both orally and in writing