

**University Of Puerto Rico
Río Piedras Campus
Department Of English
College Of Humanities**

- A. Instructor:** Dr. Ann Albuyeh
ann.albuyeh1@upr.edu
- B. Course Title:** Language Acquisition (the Acquisition of English)
- C. Code:** INGL 6507
- D. Credit Hours:** 45 hours/3 credit hours
- E. Prerequisites:** Introductory course in linguistics

F. Course description This course examines language acquisition from a number of perspectives: the fields of neurolinguistics (language and the brain), psychology (especially child and adult language learning and processing), linguistics (what is language; what are its components) and sociolinguistics (how do social factors affect learning). Within this context, the course examines theories of both first and second language acquisition and the research carried out to test these theories. The course focuses on the significant debates and controversies which have engaged scholars in language acquisition both in the past and at the current time. Similarities and differences between child vs. adult learners, first vs. second acquisition, natural vs. classroom learning, etc. will be examined. The course first considers the brain, the developing child and first language acquisition, before focusing on child and adult second language acquisition.

G. Objectives: By the end of this course, students will have demonstrated control of the following:

1. understanding of the overall issues with regard to first and second language acquisition
2. familiarity with the major theories of language acquisition.
3. ability to use this knowledge to analyze research into first and second language acquisition and apply this to teaching and doing research in Puerto Rico.
4. appreciation of the various factors which encourage or inhibit language learning.
5. appreciation of the limits of our current knowledge regarding language acquisition and a view to future research.

H. Course Outline:

Week 1 & 2	Introduction/Issue of Innateness
Weeks 3 & 4	First Language Acquisition
Weeks 5 & 6	Foundations of Second Language Acquisition
Weeks 7 & 8	The Linguistics of Second Language Acquisition
Weeks 9 & 10	The Psychology of Second Language Acquisition
Week 11	Exam
Week 12 & 13	Social Contexts of Second Language Acquisition
Week 14 & 15	Research Methods in Second Language Acquisition

I. Teaching Strategies: The course will consist of lecture, class discussion, and group work on analysis of research.

**Cumplimiento con la Ley 51*

*Los estudiantes que reciban servicios de **Rehabilitación Vocacional** deben comunicarse con el(la) profesor(a) al inicio del semestre para planificar el acomodo razonable y equipo asistivo necesario conforme a las recomendaciones de la Oficina de Asuntos para las Personas con Impedimento (OAPI) del Decanato de Estudiantes. También aquellos estudiantes con necesidades especiales que requieren de algún tipo de asistencia o acomodo deben comunicarse con el(la) profesor(a).*

J. Required Resources: Richardson seminar room, main library, video monitor and computers, Internet

K. Evaluation: Students will be evaluated in terms of the following criteria:

Class attendance/participation (includes students' questions, responses)	20%
Oral presentation	30%
Exam	50%

**Evaluación diferenciada para estudiantes con necesidades especiales.*

L. Grading system: A, B, C, D, F

M. Bibliography

Primary Texts:

Clark, Eve V. *First Language Acquisition*, 3rd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2016. (2nd edition 2009)

Saville-Troike, Muriel and Karen Barto. *Introduction to Second Language Acquisition*, 2nd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017.

Mackey, Alison and Susan M. Gass. *Research Methods in Second Language Acquisition: A Practical Guide*. Chichester, UK: Wiley-Blackwell Publishing, 2012.

Secondary Sources:

Note extensive references in Clark and Saville-Troike (2017).

Brown, H. Douglas. *Principles of Language Learning and Teaching* (5th ed.). New York: Pearson Longman, 2007.

Dabrowska, Ewa. *Language, Mind, and Brain*. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2004.

Ellis, Rod. *The Study of Second Language Acquisition*, 2nd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008.

Freeman, David E. and Yvonne S. Freeman. *Between Worlds, Third Edition: Access to Second Language*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 2011.

Gass, Susan M. and Alison Mackey, eds. *The Routledge Handbook of Second Language Acquisition*. London: Routledge, 2013.

Lust, Barbara and Claire Foley, eds. *First Language Acquisition: The Essential Readings*. London: Wiley-Blackwell 2003

Mitchell, Rosamund and Florence Myles. *Second Language Learning Theories*, 2nd ed. London: Hodder Arnold, 2004.

Peccei, Jean Stillwell. *Child Language: A Resource Book for Students*. London: Routledge, 2006.

Peets, Kathleen. *Critical Period Hypothesis for Second Language Acquisition: A Review of the Literature*. York: England: York University Faculty of Health, 2009.

http://www.academia.edu/290567/Critical_Period_Hypothesis_for_Second_Language_Acquisition_A_Review_of_the_Literature

Van Patten, Bill and Alessandro G. Benati. *Key Terms in Second Language Acquisition*. London: Continuum, 2010.

Websites and Databases:

American Speech Language Hearing Association

<http://www.asha.org>.

Applied Linguistics and Second Language Acquisition Forum

<http://www.lingforum.com/forum>.

CHILDES - Child Language Data Exchange System

<http://www.childes.psy.cmu.edu>.

International Association for the Study of Child Language

<http://www.iascl.talkbank.org>

International Association of Language and Social Psychology

<http://www.ialsp.org>.

Second Language Acquisition Research Guide

<http://www.apu.libguides.com>.

Talkbank Database

<http://www.talkbank.org>.

Teachers of English as a Second Language and Teachers of English as a Second Language in Puerto Rico

<http://www.tesol.org> and <http://www.puertoricotesol.org>.

The European Second Language Association

<http://www.eurosla.org>.