

2,5	569830	Specialized topics in second language acquisition I (ST-I): <i>Approaches to SLA research</i> Temes especialitzats en adquisició de segones llengües I (ST-I): <i>Aproximacions a la recerca en adquisició de segones llengües</i>	Roger Gilabert	Q1
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Course Description

This course presents and analyzes the main theoretical approaches which have been employed in SLA research: cognitive, linguistic and social. The different models, constructs, and conceptions of language springing from each paradigm are scrutinized and the kinds of research questions and methodological options associated with each perspective are also critically analyzed and discussed. The different perceptions of how the different processes of second language acquisition operate under each approach and how they may be tackled from a research point of view are addressed. A critical evaluation of each theoretical approach is provided by looking at how much and how well each perspective has answered its own research questions, how much we have learned about second language acquisition from each perspective, their achievements and their limitations.

Syllabus

Session 1. Goals and what a theory is

Session 2. Linguistic approaches

Session 3. Cognitive approaches I (emergentism, constructions, processability)

Session 4. Cognitive approaches II (interaction and output theories)

Session 5. Cognitive approaches III (attention and memory)

Session 6. Sociocultural approaches

Session 7. Holistic SLA theories

Methodology

Each session will require students to read a series of articles related to the different SLA approaches prior to the session and a brief presentation of the articles followed by general discussions in each session. Pair and group work for the analysis of research articles will be encouraged and student-led discussions of key terms and concepts will be promoted.

Assessment

A written exam or an essay comparing how the same L2 acquisition problem is tackled by two different perspectives.

Bibliography

Doughty, C., & Long, M. H. (Eds.). (2003). *Handbook of second language acquisition*. New York: Basil Blackwell.

Gass, S. M., & Mackey, A. (2011). *The handbook of second language acquisition*. New York: Routledge.

J. Herschensohn & M. Young-Scholten (2013). *The Cambridge Handbook of Second Language Acquisition*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Mitchell, R., Myles, F., & Marsden, E. (2013; 3rd ed). *Second language learning theories*. Abingdon: Routledge.

Myles, F. (2010). The development of theories of second language acquisition. *Language Teaching*, 43(03), 320-332.

Myles, F. (2010). Building a comprehensive second language acquisition theory. In P. seedhouse, S. Walsh & C. Jenks (Eds.), *Conceptualising 'learning' in Applied Linguistics* (pp. 225-239). Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.