

English 7/8531: Theory and History of ESL

This course provides students with a comprehensive view of the theoretical foundation of second language learning. Course content examines the relationship between these foundations and the linguistic approaches to ESL which have grown out of them. Historical perspectives on the development of various ESL approaches give the student an appreciation of the influence of several disciplines, notably psychology, linguistics, psycholinguistics, socio-linguistics, social psychology, and education. Beyond examining the various approaches to language teaching, students also examine the relationship between first and second language acquisition, draw on the connections between theory and practice, investigate cognitive variations of language learners, consider personality and sociocultural variables, and study the pragmatic functions of language.