English 7/8531: Theory and History of ESL (WEB)

This course introduces and engages with the interdisciplinary field of second language acquisition (SLA), which is largely concerned with the diverse processes involved in second language learning and use, and emphasis is placed on the history of and theoretical approaches to English as a Second Language (ESL). This term we will review several approaches to language teaching/learning theory, emphasizing linguistic, cognitive/psychological, and social processes involved in using and learning additional languages, particularly English. We will review these approaches from a broad theoretical perspective and explore their practical implications on language instruction.

As part of regular course activity, we will examine how diverse theoretical approaches to language learning theory have implications on language teaching and language assessment. Coursework will include short weekly reflections, collaborative critics of ESL materials and syllabi, collaborative *Theory in practice* micro-teaching activities, and a final written project reviewing scholarship in an area of interest, analyzing a linguistic dataset, or recounting a personal language learning narrative.

Required Textbooks:

Mitchell, R. F., Myles, F., & Marsden, E. (2019). *Second language learning theories* (4th ed.). London: Routledge.

Additional readings will be assigned and made available through Canvas