

ENGL 7/8534: Second Language Acquisition



In this course, we will delve into current, research-based understandings of how

languages are learned. Our focus will be three primary questions related to learning and teaching of additional languages—languages learned after the first language is acquired:

1. How are additional languages learned?
2. What factors influence acquisition of additional languages (e.g., why are some people more successful at learning languages while others struggle? What personal factors, learning conditions, and social situations promote the acquisition of additional languages?
3. How are language learning and language teaching related? How does second language acquisition theory color our understanding of how to teach languages in the classroom?

Along the way, we will examine the linguistic, contextual, cognitive, individual, and social factors that impact language learning. The course will require students to read current research studies and foundational texts in the field of SLA, to research aspects of language acquisition, and to prepare presentations on key concepts of SLA for their classmates.