

Master of Arts in International Language Education (MAILE)
School of Humanities and Social Science
Course syllabus

Course code: MILE5001
Course title: Second Language Acquisition (SLA)
Course offered: Fall 2017
Course instructors: Dr. Claudia Wong (lcclaudia@ust.hk)

Course description

This is a core course for students of both TESL and TCSL concentrations on the MAILE program. It provides students with fundamental knowledge about Second Language Acquisition (SLA) by examining established and more recent topics in the field. Research studies and examples of SLA on different languages will be analyzed and discussed. Through this course, students will be better equipped with knowledge and skills that are essential to their teaching or research career.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

At the end of the course, you will:

- understand and evaluate SLA theories and how they relate to language pedagogy
- know the cognitive development and mechanisms in second language (L2) learning
- understand how socio-cultural factors affecting SLA
- identify sources relevant to SLA topics for future teaching preparation

Course schedule

Lesson1	Sep 6	Course introduction; overview of SLA
Lesson2	Sep 13	First language (L1) acquisition & the role of L1 in SLA
Lesson3	Sep 20	Working memory (WM) & attention in SLA
Lesson4	Sep 27	SLA comprehension (1)
Lesson5	Oct 4	SLA comprehension (2)
Lesson6	Oct 11	SLA comprehension (3)
Lesson7	Oct 18	SLA production (1)
Lesson8	Oct 25	SLA production (2)
Lesson9	Nov 1	SLA production (3)
Lesson10	Nov 8	L2 learning motivation and strategies
Lesson11	Nov 15	Language aptitude & Age of Acquisition (AoA)
Lesson12	Nov 22	L2 learning contexts & other factors impacting SLA
Lesson13	Nov 29	Group poster presentation assessment

Assessments

There are three assessments for this course:

1. Mini-literature review (Individually assessed – 20%)
2. Learner-language sample analysis (Group assessed – 20%)
3. Research paper (Individually assessed – 30%)
4. Group poster presentation (30%)

Sample course readings

Brown S. & Larson-Hall, J. (2012). *Second Language Acquisition Myths: Applying Second Language Research to Classroom Teaching*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

Xing, J. Z. (2006). *Teaching and Learning Chinese as a Foreign Language: A Pedagogical Grammar*. Hong Kong: The Hong Kong University Press.