EDU 360: Second Language Acquisition  
Secondary Curriculum & Instruction “Break-Out” Session  
Spring 2005

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Meeting time and place: Buck Seminar 005  
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I. DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE
This course is an introduction to the field of second language acquisition (SLA) with an emphasis on speaking. It has been designed for advanced undergraduate language majors. The course format will include readings, discussions, and oral presentations. It will examine speaking in a second language from several perspectives: theory, evaluation/testing, pedagogy, and materials.

II. TEXTBOOKS AND CLASS MATERIALS
Ellis, R. (1997), Second Language Acquisition
Journal articles on electronic reserve will supplement the text. (password: education) http://elecres.iwu.edu/eres/courseindex.aspx?page=search

III. COMPONENTS OF THE COURSE
A typical week will include reading and discussion of the readings. Each of these components of the course is discussed in more detail below.

Readings. Readings will be from the two texts and from articles. Try to focus your attention while reading on these two areas:
1) What are the main points in this section/chapter? What information am I learning here?
2) By what method(s) is the author coming up with the information? In the case of the textbooks, the authors have chosen topics to address, and discuss these topics by raising questions, synthesizing research by other people to respond to the questions, and then summarizing what is known and what is still under investigation or a subject of debate in the SLA field. In the case of research reports, the researchers usually follow a standard format of introducing a problem, surveying what is already known about it, explaining how they set up their study, and then reporting and interpreting results. You should use this same format when presenting the article summaries.

Discussion. Each week by 12pm on Wednesday you should send me by e-mail a brief message about the readings for that day’s class. Your message should be 1-2 paragraphs long and should contain information on the following items:
1) What you found enlightening/interesting about the reading(s).
2) What, conversely, you found irrelevant or didn’t understand about the reading(s). Be specific in your comments and questions. I will do my best to incorporate them into my preparation for the class and to address questions you may have.
Presentation and Analyses of the readings. The questions and comments you will send me before each class (above) will be informal. During the course of the semester you will also present and analyze the articles you will read (not to the textbook chapters). The purpose of these is to give you practice in identifying and stating succinctly the research questions, results, and implications of research studies, and also to help you make connections between and among your readings. You should discuss such things as the research question, whether other investigators have looked at similar questions, what the investigator may have left out of the study that should have been included, etc. In other words, base your reaction on the other readings and on your informed opinion, not on "gut instinct" or your personal experience with learning or teaching other languages.

IV. EVALUATION IN THE COURSE
The final grade will be based on student performance in the following:

• Participation in discussion on a regular basis
  (i.e., talking about the reading, asking questions)  30%

• Comments and questions to me about the readings
  (regular submission + quality of what you submit)  30%

• Article Presentations  40%
EDU 360 Calendar - Spring 2005

SLA: Ellis, Second language acquisition

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**Week 1 - Jan 27**

SLA: Ch. 1, 2

*Important notes about reading assignments:*
- For all reading assignments turn in questions and comments by 12 on Wed.
- Whenever you have a reading assignment in SLA, in addition to reading the chapter(s), you should also read the excerpts in Section 2 of the book.

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**Week 2 – Feb. 3**


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**Week 3 – Feb. 10**

SLA: Ch 3, 4, 5

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**Week 4 - Feb 17**


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**Week 5 - Feb. 24**

No class

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**Week 6 – March 3**

Week 7 – March 10


Week 8 – March 17

SLA: 6, 7

Week 9 - March 24


Week 10- March 31

SLA: Ch. 8

Week 11 – April 7


Week 12- April 14

SLA: Ch. 9

Week 13 - April 21