

## **LING 3-225 SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION**

**Instructor: Dr Eleni Agathopoulou**

### **Course description and objectives**

This course introduces students to the field of second language acquisition theory. After a brief overview of first language acquisition data and theories, as well as types of bilingualism, the course focuses mainly on the following.

1. First language acquisition theories (Behaviourism, Universal Grammar, Interactionism)
2. Second language acquisition theories (Behaviourism, Universal Grammar, Monitor Model, Interactionism, Information processing, Connectionism).
3. Factors affecting second language learning (e.g. intelligence, aptitude, personality, learning styles, motivation and attitudes, beliefs).
4. Age of acquisition and the critical period hypothesis.
5. Interlanguage (contrastive analysis, error analysis, developmental sequences, first language influence, fossilization, avoidance, vocabulary, pragmatics, phonology).
6. Learning contexts (natural vs. instructional environment, traditional vs. communicative instruction)
7. Types and effect of corrective feedback.

Assessment: Final written exams.

### **Learning outcomes and competences**

By the end of the course participants should be:

1. Familiar with second language acquisition as an independent study field.
2. Aware of the similarities and differences between First and Second Language Acquisition.
3. Able to critically evaluate second language acquisition theories.
4. Familiar with the concept of interlanguage.
5. Aware of the differences between various second language acquisition contexts and types of learners, as well as how these differences may affect language learning.