

**University of Arkansas-Fort Smith**  
**5210 Grand Avenue**  
**P. O. Box 3649**  
**Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649**

**General Syllabus**

**FORL 4323 Second Language Acquisition**

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Lecture Hours:** 3  
**Prerequisite:** Junior standing or departmental permission.  
**Effective:** Summer I 2011

**I. Course Information**

**A. Catalog Description**

Important theories of and research in second language acquisition (SLA), similarities and differences between first and second language acquisition, and the relevance of SLA to the second language classroom.

**B. Additional Information**

Required for the Certificate of proficiency in Teaching English as a Second Language with either the ENGL or FORL prefix.

**II. Student Learning Outcomes**

**A. Subject Matter**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate comprehension and discuss the major theories of SLA, including, but not limited to, Behaviorism, Mentalism, Cognitivism, and Sociocultural Theory.
2. Demonstrate comprehension and discuss other theories related to SLA, including, but not limited to, Interlanguage Theory, Critical age Hypothesis, Input Theory, Pidginization Hypothesis, Acculturation theory.
3. Read, analyze, and discuss academic articles in the field of SLA.

## **B. University Learning Outcomes**

### **Global and cultural perspectives**

Students will be able to reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own.

Students will be able to demonstrate the understanding or application of their discipline in a global environment.

Students will be able to demonstrate how their discipline impacts or is impacted by those of different cultures.

### **Communication Skills**

Students will be able to communicate effectively with a variety of audiences in any setting.

Students will be able to compose coherent documents appropriate to the intended audience.

Students will be able to effectively communicate orally in a public setting.

### **Technological Literacy**

Students will be able to use computerized tools to efficiently access, communicate, analyze, and evaluate electronic information.

Students will be able to use technology to access information.

Students will be able to use technology to effectively communicate.

Students will be able to use appropriate technology to analyze and evaluate data.

### **Analytical Skills**

Students will use analytical/critical thinking skills to draw conclusions and/or solve problems.

Students will be able to access and evaluate appropriate information through written and electronic means.

Students will be able to think critically to reach viable solutions to a problem and be able to justify those solutions.

## **III. Major Course Topics**

- A. First language acquisition
- B. Second language acquisition
- C. Behaviorism
- D. Cognitive theories of SLA
- E. Social aspects of SLA
- F. Psycholinguistics
- G. Individual differences
- H. Sociocultural Theory