

MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY

Revised 9/15

DEPARTMENT: English and Philosophy

COURSE PREFIX: TSL **COURSE NUMBER:** 409 **CREDIT HOURS:** 3

I. COURSE TITLE: Acquisition of Languages in Children & Adolescents

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course examines theories and perspectives on the language acquisition process in children and adolescents. Special emphasis includes a review of language acquisition research in school contexts and an examination of the relationship between various theories of acquisition and instruction. Prerequisite: ENG 310

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES: Class activities will be centered on the attainment of the course objectives listed below. These objectives are understood to be reflective of, but not limited to those behaviors advocated by the Kentucky Education Reform Act guidelines. Following each objective, and enclosed in parentheses, are numbers which reference the Kentucky Teacher Standards for Preparation and Certification (KTS) addressed by that objective. By the end of this course, students will develop the requisite knowledge and skills to

- A. discuss theoretical concepts/models in first language acquisition and bilingualism; (KTS #1, 4)
- B. understand the major controversies and issues in first language acquisition and bilingualism; (KTS #1, 7, 8)
- C. distinguish first language acquisition from second language acquisition theoretically and pedagogically; (KTS #1, 4)
- D. evaluate critically primary research studies and related hypotheses concerning bilingualism; (KTS #1, 5) and
- E. develop a research paper through an in-depth interview with a real bilingual on a topic of interest in bilingualism. (KTS #1, 6, 8)

The EPSB Themes of Diversity, Assessment, and Literacy/Reading will also be explored in the course through classroom discussion and classroom projects.

IV. CONTENT OUTLINE: The course will begin by discussing major theoretical issues surrounding first language acquisition, second language acquisition, and bilingualism. The rest of the course will include analyzing applications of bilingual theories in PreK-12 ESL (English as a Second Language) school contexts, comparing first and second language acquisition in children and adolescents, and developing skills and initial scholarly thinking for scientifically analyzing and reporting young learners' process-oriented language learning behaviors to the ESL community.

V. INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES: The primary organization of the course will be a combination of lectures, class discussions, individual/group projects, and student presentations. Students are expected to read selected readings and chapters before class and be prepared to be actively engaged in class discussions according to the course schedule. Two field trips to two public schools will be part of the instructional activities.

VI. FIELD, CLINICAL, AND/OR LABORATORY EXPERIENCES: Two field trips to two public schools during the semester is required.

VII. TEXTS AND RESOURCES: Students will have access to University resources, including electronic course materials and library resources.

May include the following:

Baker, C. (2006). *Foundations of bilingual education and bilingualism (4th ed.)*. New York: Multilingual Matters.

Karmiloff-Smith, K., & Karmiloff-Smith, A. (2001). *Pathways to language: From foetus to adolescent*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

VanPatten, B., & Williams, J. (2007). *Theories in second language acquisition: An introduction*. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum.

VIII. GRADING PROCEDURES: Course grades will be determined by student performance on activities such as class discussions, exams, and research projects.

Letter grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

A =90 – 100 pts.

B =89 – 80 pts.

C =79 – 70 pts.

D =69 – 60 pts.

E =59 – 0 pts.

IX. ATTENDANCE POLICY: Students are expected to adhere to the MSU Attendance Policy outlined in the current *MSU Bulletin*.

X. ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY: Murray State University takes seriously its moral and educational obligation to maintain high standards of academic honesty and ethical behavior. Instructors are expected to evaluate students' academic achievements accurately, as well as ascertain that work submitted by students is authentic and the result of their own efforts, and consistent with established academic standards. Students are obligated to respect and abide by the basic standards of personal and professional integrity.

Violations of Academic Honesty include:

Cheating - Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized information such as books, notes, study aids, or other electronic, online, or digital devices in any academic exercise; as well as unauthorized communication of information by any means to or from others during any academic exercise.

Fabrication and Falsification - Intentional alteration or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise. Falsification involves changing information whereas fabrication involves inventing or counterfeiting information.

Multiple Submission - The submission of substantial portions of the same academic work, including oral reports, for credit more than once without authorization from the instructor.

Plagiarism - Intentionally or knowingly representing the words, ideas, creative work, or data of someone else as one's own in any academic exercise, without due and proper acknowledgement.

Instructors should outline their expectations that may go beyond the scope of this policy at the beginning of each course and identify such expectations and restrictions in the course syllabus. When an instructor receives evidence, either directly or indirectly, of academic dishonesty, he or she should investigate the instance. The faculty member should then take appropriate disciplinary action.

Disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to the following:

- 1) Requiring the student(s) to repeat the exercise or do additional related exercise(s).
- 2) Lowering the grade or failing the student(s) on the particular exercise(s) involved.
- 3) Lowering the grade or failing the student(s) in the course.

If the disciplinary action results in the awarding of a grade of E in the course, the student(s) may not drop the course.

Faculty reserve the right to invalidate any exercise or other evaluative measures if substantial evidence exists that the integrity of the exercise has been compromised. Faculty also reserve the right to document in the course syllabi further academic honesty policy elements related to the individual disciplines.

A student may appeal the decision of the faculty member with the department chair in writing within five working days. Note: If, at any point in this process, the student alleges that actions have taken place that may be in violation of the Murray State University Non-Discrimination Statement, this process must be suspended and the matter be directed to the Office of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Access. Any appeal will be forwarded to the appropriate university committee as determined by the Provost.

XI. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY AND STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Policy Statement

Murray State University endorses the intent of all federal and state laws created to prohibit discrimination. Murray State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, veteran status, or disability in employment, admissions, or the provision of services and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities equal access to participate in all programs and activities. For more information, contact the Executive Director of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Access, 103 Wells Hall, (270) 809-3155 (voice), (270) 809-3361 (TDD).

Students with Disabilities

Students requiring special assistance due to a disability should visit the Office of Student Disability Services immediately for assistance with accommodations. For more information, students should contact the Office of Student Disability Services, 423 Wells Hall, Murray, KY 42071. 270-809-2018 (voice) 270-809-5889(TDD).