FORL 4501 Foundations of Language Development
Fall, 2008
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Office Hours: Wednesdays, 3-5 and by appointment

Course Description:
This course, designed primarily for future and novice language teachers, introduces students to theories of first and second language development. It is a requirement for all students completing the P-12 initial certification track in French and Spanish.

By the end of this course, students will:

1. summarize theories of first and second language development
2. apply their knowledge of theories in discussions of observations of language students and first language learners
3. examine the impact of research in anthropology and education in the development of language teaching methodology and the adoption of the National Standards for Language Learning (see www.actfl.org)

This course incorporates the following INTASC principles:
- (#1) The teacher understands the central concepts, tools of inquiry, and structures of the discipline(s) s/he teaches and can create learning experiences that make these aspects of subject matter meaningful for students.
- (#3) The teacher understands how students differ in their approaches to learning and creates instructional opportunities that are adapted to diverse learners.
- (#7) the teacher plans instruction based upon knowledge of subject matter, students, the community, and curriculum goals.

This course also incorporates the following ACTFL/NCATE Standards for the Preparation of Foreign Language Teachers. (These standards may be found at www.actfl.org).

- **Standard 3.a. Understanding Language Acquisition and Creating a Supportive Classroom.** Candidates demonstrate an understanding of language acquisition at various developmental levels and use this knowledge to create a supportive classroom learning environment that includes target language input and opportunities for negotiation of meaning and meaningful interaction.
- **Standard 6.b. Knowing the Value of Foreign Language Learning.** Candidates know the value of foreign language learning to the overall success of all students and understand that they will need to become advocates with students, colleagues, and members of the community to promote the field.
This course adheres to the Conceptual Framework of the College of Education of the University of West Georgia. For information about the Conceptual Framework, go to [http://coe.westga.edu/About/ConceptualFramework/ConceptualFramework.pdf](http://coe.westga.edu/About/ConceptualFramework/ConceptualFramework.pdf)

**Required textbooks:**


Other readings may be assigned over the course of the semester.

**Requirements:**

- You are permitted two absences, no questions asked. For each absence over that limit, your final grade will be reduced by 1 letter grade.
- Students must be prepared when they arrive in class. Follow the syllabus and complete all assignments before coming to class.
- It is your responsibility to check your my.westga.edu e-mail account for e-mails from your instructor. All official UWG communication is done through this account, including information about registration, etc. You are expected to send e-mails to your instructor from this account as well. This prevents possible spam-blocking, etc.

*All homework must be turned in on time. No late work will be accepted. It is your responsibility to make sure you get any assignments made during a class you missed.*

**Grading:**

- Written Assignments 40%
- Final 25%
- Midterm 20%
- Participation 15%  
  (in class group work, presentations, etc.)

**Course Calendar**  
(May be revised as we progress through the semester)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>First day of class: What is language?, language myths, overview of linguistics research: behaviorism, universal grammar</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Overview of linguistics research: anthropology</td>
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<td>September</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pragmatics and sociolinguistics</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Inquiry: Language acts</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Inquiry: Form and function</td>
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<td></td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Inquiry: Participants and context</td>
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
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<td>midterm exam</td>
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8  LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITH GRADE OF W
15  Piaget and Vygotsky: theories of language and learning
22  Focus on pedagogy: vocabulary and grammar learning
29  Focus on pedagogy: literacy development

November
5  Focus on pedagogy: Learning language through stories
12  Focus on pedagogy: theme-based teaching and learning
19  Focus on pedagogy: theme-based teaching and learning
26  NO CLASS—Thanksgiving Recess

December
3  LAST DAY OF CLASS
10  FINAL EXAM: 5:30-7:30 pm.

PLAGIARISM POLICY:
The University of West Georgia defines plagiarism as "the purchase and use of ghost-written papers and reports, or incorporating into a report, term theme, research paper, or project, ideas and information obtained from another person without giving credit to the person from whom such information was obtained." (Faculty Handbook, section 207.) This definition applies equally to electronic, print, and verbal sources. Plagiarism is grounds for failing this course. All incidents of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs.