

# Principles in Second Language Acquisition

## TCHED 6220/321 January 29 - May 15, 2015

**Spring 2015** Hybrid (10 Online Sessions, 5 Physical Sessions)

### Instructor

Ralph Córdova, Ph.D., [cordovar@umsl.edu](mailto:cordovar@umsl.edu), 314-516-5799

Office hours by appointment, Room 306, Marillac Hall Thursday from 9:00am-11am.

Virtual Office Hours: Tuesdays 10am - 2pm, by appointment

### Required Course Materials:

*Understanding Language Structure, Interaction and Variation: An Introduction to Applied Linguistics and Sociolinguistics for Nonspecialists. Third Edition*  
by Steven Brown, Salvatore Attardo, Cynthia Vigliotti

*Between Worlds: Access to Second Language Acquisition*  
by David E. Freeman & Yvonne S. Freeman. PDF file will be provided by instructor.

*Principles and Practice in Second Language Acquisition*  
by Stephen Krashen (1982). PDF file will be provided by instructor.

### Technology Requirements

1. Computer with an updated operating system (e.g. Windows, Mac) and an Internet browser (e.g. Mozilla Firefox, Internet Explorer, Safari)
2. Ability to navigate MyGateway (Blackboard Learning Management System)
3. Develop an account on [www.ourCoLab.ning.com](http://www.ourCoLab.ning.com), which we'll use for the majority of our assignments. You will have access to the site indefinitely.
4. Download Adobe Acrobat.
5. Minimum Processor Speed of 250 MHz, 400 MHz recommended.

### Course Catalog Description

Principles of Second/Foreign Language Acquisition (3)

Prerequisites: Tch Ed 6210. This course is a research-based study of language acquisition and the factors, which influence learning. Students investigate first and second language acquisition processes including socio-cultural and cognitive factors, as well as linguistic research about second language acquisition (SLA). The course analyzes phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics and discourse, within a sociocultural framework, which directly relates to instructional strategies and then looks at learning theory and its pedagogical implications.

### Class Format

This is a sixteen-week online/physical course. It will meet physically for 5 sessions, one each month. The 10 online classes will meet virtually and independently consisting of both individual and group-related projects. The assignments will be posted in on the NING and there will be announcements. Assignments will be turned in physically and electronically. Course work will consist of instruction (Prezi), video, discussions in class (Ning), reading of

# **Principles in Second Language Acquisition**

## **TCHED 6220/321 January 29 - May 15, 2015**

textbooks and professional literature on our NING.

### **Goals and Competencies**

The learning objectives of the course will require each student to be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of general socio-cultural theory, psycholinguistics, inclusive pedagogy, and other major SLA theories and how they relate to Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL).
2. Analyze ELL student class participation, oral production, reading, writing, and errors with particular reference to placing and providing for the ELLs' needs more effectively, using SLA principles.
3. Analyze the learning needs of an ELL learner using SLA principles and propose specific types of interventions, and ways to ameliorate the student's proficiency in the English language.
4. Evaluate learning situations in terms of SLA theories and learning constraints and affordances and recommend common understandings and united advocacy using an inclusive pedagogy framework.

### **Key Questions and Ideas**

1. Why is studying language essential for teachers of English language learners?
2. How do children acquire language skills?
3. What research and theoretical evidence best explains successful first language acquisition?
4. What research and theoretical evidence best explains successful second language acquisition?
5. How do learner characteristics affect language acquisition? What can teachers do to accommodate for learner characteristics?