

MALLT 706: Seminar in Foreign Language Methodology and Pedagogy
Tuesday 5:30-8:10 p.m.; Curtin 119
Spring 2010

Instructors: Anita Alkhas (alkhas@uwm.edu) Jeanne Schueller (jeannems@uwm.edu)
Office hours: Tue. 12:30-2:00 Office hours: Mon. 10:00-11:00 (*via online chat*)
CRT 796; 229-5966 Wed. 10:00-11:00 in CRT 536; 229-5972

Course Materials

- * *Second Language Learning and Language Teaching* (4th ed., Hodder Education, 2008)
- * Readings (journal articles) will be available as .pdf documents online
- * MALLT 706 Ning webpage (www.mallt706.ning.com)

Learning Objectives/Course Goals

In this course, students will explore issues related to language learning and language teaching and the linkage between theory, research, and practice. We will consider, evaluate, and challenge research, as well as our own assumptions about language learning and teaching.

The principal goals of this course parallel the scope of the textbook we will be reading: “The main aim of this book is to communicate to those concerned with language teaching some of the ideas about how people acquire second languages that emerge from second language acquisition (SLA) research, and to make suggestions of how these might benefit language teaching. It is not a guide to SLA research methodology itself, or to the merits and failings of particular SLA research techniques... Nor is it an overall guide to the methods and techniques of language teaching; only to those which are related to an SLA research perspective” (p. 1).

Students will read scholarly journal articles with an eye toward critical analysis, engage in discussion, both in class and on the class forum, and gain hands-on experience designing a research study.

Policies and Procedures

In this course, we comply with all UWM policies on Students with Disabilities (ADA), Academic Conduct, Complaint Procedures, Grade Appeals, Sexual Harassment, Attendance, Safety, and Religious Observances. See <http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/SyllabusLinks.pdf> for the university policies regarding students with disabilities, religious observances, incompletes, discriminatory conduct, complaint and grade appeal procedures, and academic misconduct, as well as other policies.

Any student breaking the UWM *Academic Conduct* policies will receive a failing grade in this course. Please consult carefully the MAFL Handbook and the policies on academic conduct. See the following website for more information: <http://www4.uwm.edu/letsci/mafl/integrity.cfm>.

If you need special accommodations to meet any of the requirements of this course, please contact Dr. Alkhas or Dr. Schueller as soon as possible.

Attendance

Regular attendance is required. For each unexcused absence, your final grade may be lowered by $\frac{1}{2}$ a grade. If you miss class, you are still responsible for turning in assignments on time. Please notify both instructors in advance whenever possible if you expect to miss class.

Assessment

The final grade for this course will be determined according to the following percentages:

- 10% Journal article abstract:** Each student will prepare a written abstract and critical evaluation of an assigned article. Students will present their summary briefly in class.
- 5% Leading class discussion:** Following the presentation of his/her summary, the student will lead the class discussion on the article.
- 20% Preparation and participation** includes careful reading of assignments (chapters from the book and journal articles) in advance of class; making substantive contributions in class and on the MALLT 706 forum; your willingness to work with partners and in small groups; and thorough completion of assignments on time.
- 15 % Annotated bibliography:** Students will annotate a minimum of ten scholarly research articles directly relevant to their paper topic. This assignment will help in writing the review of the literature for the seminar paper.
- 40% Seminar paper:** Students will write a detailed research study proposal for this seminar but are not required to carry out the study or collect any data. The following sections will be due as separate assignments during the semester:
 - 1) topic identification & “mini” introduction (i.e., what do you propose studying and why?)
 - 2) introduction
 - 3) review of the literature
 - 4) methodology & procedures
 - 5) conclusion
 - 6) final draft of complete paper
- 10% Take-home final:** The take-home final will be due during finals week.

Semester Overview

Dates for topics, assignments, and guest speakers are subject to change.

Week	Topics	Assignments due by today
		NOTE: Other required readings will be announced at least one week in advance and posted in .pdf form on the MALLT706 Ning website.
1 (1/26)	What is SLA research? How does it inform teaching? Practitioner as researcher—what is action/classroom research? What's in a journal article?	Read ch. 1 <i>SLLLT</i>
2 (2/2)	General models of L2 learning; Findings from SLA research; Library workshop	Read ch. 12 <i>SLLLT</i> Journal article
3 (2/9)	Second language learning and language teaching styles Guest speaker: Kathleen Farrell-Whitworth	Read ch. 13 <i>SLLLT</i> Journal article
4 (2/16)	Goals and issues of language teaching and learning	Read ch. 11 <i>SLLLT</i> Journal article
5 (2/23)	Learning and teaching different types of grammar Guest speaker: Pat Lunn	Read ch. 2 <i>SLLLT</i> Journal article Identify topic for study Mini-introduction (what & why)
6 (3/2)	Learning and teaching vocabulary Guest speaker: Bobbi Corrigan	Read ch. 3 <i>SLLLT</i> Journal article
7 (3/9)	Acquiring and teaching pronunciation Guest speaker: Fred Eckman	Read ch. 4 <i>SLLLT</i> Journal article
8 (3/16)	Teaching culture through technology Guest speaker: Mingyu Sun	Annotated bibliography Journal articles
	Spring Break	
9 (3/30)	Strategies for communicating and learning	Read ch. 6 <i>SLLLT</i> Journal article
10 (4/6)	Classroom-based research Guest speaker: Ben Kennedy	Review of literature Journal article
11 (4/13)	Receptive skills: listening and reading processes	Read ch. 7 <i>SLLLT</i> Journal article Study methodology
12 (4/20)	Classroom interaction Guest speaker: Pat Mayes	Read ch. 9 <i>SLLLT</i> Journal article Study introduction
13 (4/27)	Individual differences in L2 users and L2 learners	Read ch. 8 <i>SLLLT</i> Journal article Study conclusion
14 (5/4)	Productive skills: writing	Journal articles
15 (5/11)	The L2 user and the native speaker	Read ch. 10 <i>SLLLT</i> Journal article Final draft of paper due
16 (5/18) Finals week	Presentations/poster session	