

**Vorlesung  
Wintersemester 2013/2014**

## **Introduction to Second Language Acquisition**

**Abstract:**

This course offers an introduction at the advanced undergraduate/beginning graduate level to the study of language acquisition, in particular Second Language Acquisition (SLA). The course surveys the major approaches to SLA, their goals, research methodology, and major findings, emphasizing the interdisciplinary link to linguistic modeling and cognition.

**Instructor:** Detmar Meurers

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- *Office hours:* Wednesdays 10:00–11:00 (please arrange slot by email beforehand)

**Course meets:** Wednesdays, 16ct–18 in 0.01 (SfS, Blochbau, Wilhelmstr. 19)

**Language:** The course is taught in English.

**Nature of course:** This is a lecture course, i.e., students are expected to regularly come to the lecture, actively participate in the discussion, and thoroughly read the announced reading material before class.

The reading material is announced during the course. The main text books we will follow is: *Lourdes Ortega (2009). Understanding second language acquisition. London: Hodder Education.* Students should obtain a copy of the book during the first week of the class. Options include the Lehrbuchsammlung of the university library (UB).

**Grading and Credits:** Grading is based on regular and active participation in the lecture and the *final exam* in the last week of the semester. After successful completion, a paper Schein is issued, which can be counted for:

- 3 CP in MSc Kognitionswissenschaft (in “Wahlpflichtbereich” Modul Spracherwerb)
- 3 CP in MA Schulpsychologie (in “Wahlpflichtbereich” Modul 4)
- 3 CP in MA Empirische Bildungsforschung und Pädagogische Psychologie (in den Modulen III.1/2 “grundlagenorientierte/berufsorientierte Vertiefung”)
- 3 CP in BA Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft (“Vorlesung mit Klausur”)
- 3 CP in BA ISCL for Nebenfach Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft (“Ergänzungsveranstaltung” or “PS frei wählbar”)
- 3 CP in MA ISCL as “Hauptseminar” (based on the written exam) (with additional project/term paper extra credits possible → office hours)

**Syllabus (this file):**

- html-Version (<http://purl.org/dm/13/ws/sla>)
- pdf-Version (<http://purl.org/dm/13/ws/sla/syllabus.pdf>)

**Moodle page:** <https://moodle02.zdv.uni-tuebingen.de/course/view.php?id=528>

**Academic conduct and misconduct:** Research is driven by discussion and free exchange of ideas, motivations, and perspectives. So you are encouraged to work in groups, discuss, and exchange ideas. At the same time, the foundation of the free exchange of ideas is that everyone is open about where they obtained which information. Concretely, this means you are expected to always make explicit when you've worked on something as a team – and keep in mind that being part of a team always means sharing the work. For any text you write, you always have to provide explicit references for any ideas or passages you reuse from somewhere else. Note that this includes text “found” on the web, where you should cite the url of the web site in case no more official publication is available.

### **Topics:**

- Language learning in early childhood
- Second Language Learning Overview
- Crosslinguistic Influences
- Linguistic Environment
- Cognitive Foundations
- SLA development
- Individual Differences
- Social Dimensions
- Interface of Language Learning and Computational Linguistics

### **References**

Lightbown, P. M. & N. Spada (2006). *How languages are learned*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, third ed.

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