

Course (UNIDADE CURRICULAR): <b>Language Acquisition Theories</b>	
Professor: <b>Marcello Marcelino</b>	Contact: <u><a href="mailto:marcello.marcelino@unifesp.br">marcello.marcelino@unifesp.br</a></u>
Year: 2024	Semester: 2nd semester
Department: Graduate Program in Letters	
Core Course ( ) Non-core Course (x) in Linguistic Studies (X) In Literary Studies ( ) Total hour load: 90 hours	
<u>OBJECTIVES</u> To lead the student to examine the acquisition of natural languages, with a particular focus on (I) morphology and syntax, (II) the types of structures that are internalized and their mental representations (L1 or Interlanguage), (III) and the course of language acquisition over time.	
<u>COURSE DESCRIPTION</u> This course presents the main theories of natural language acquisition, with a focus on L2 acquisition, the theoretical models for describing natural languages, and their implications for acquisition.	
<u>COURSE SYLLABUS</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Foundations of Generative Grammar and Second Language Acquisition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Introduction to Generative Grammar (Chomsky's Universal Grammar)</li> <li>o Key principles of Universal Grammar (UG) and its relevance to SLA</li> <li>o The Initial State and transfer in SLA</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Parameter Setting and Language Transfer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Parameters in Universal Grammar and their role in L1 and L2</li> <li>o How parameter settings from L1 influence L2 acquisition</li> <li>o Evidence of parameter resetting in SLA</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Interlanguage and UG Constraints <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o The concept of interlanguage within the generative framework</li> <li>o Analysis of learner language through the lens of UG</li> <li>o UG constraints on interlanguage development</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. The Logical Problem of Language Acquisition in L2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o The Logical Problem (Poverty of the Stimulus) in L2 acquisition</li> <li>o Evidence for and against the availability of UG in adult L2 learners</li> <li>o Critical periods and the access to UG</li> </ul> </li> <li>5. Syntax and Morphology in Generative SLA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Acquisition of syntactic structures in L2</li> <li>o Morphological development and UG principles</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

- Studies on agreement, tense, and aspect in L2
- 6. Recent Advances and Research Methods in Generative SLA
  - Current research trends in generative approaches to SLA
  - Methodologies for studying generative SLA (e.g., elicited production, grammaticality judgment tasks)
  - Critical review of key empirical studies and their findings

METHODOLOGY

Online classes with lectures, text discussions, and seminar presentations.

INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES

Online resources. readings, handouts, Google Classroom, and links to specific websites.

EVALUATION

Continuous evaluation will be based on the presentation of texts assigned by the instructor. The ability to integrate syntactic analysis into one's own research project will also be considered, along with active participation in online discussions. A final presentation on how the course has contributed to each individual research project will be required.

### Basic Bibliography

- CHOMSKY, Noam. A Review of B. F. Skinner's Verbal Behavior. **Language**, 35, n. 1. p. 26-58. Available at: <http://cogprints.org/1148/>, 1959. Accessed on: 05/20/2014.
- CHOMSKY, Noam. **Knowledge of language**: its nature, acquisition and use. Nova York: Praeger, 1986.
- CHOMSKY, Noam. **The Minimalist Program**. Cambridge Mass: MIT Press, 1995.
- HORNSTEIN, N.; NUNES, J.; GROHMANN, K. *Understanding minimalism*. Cambridge University Press, 2005.
- IONIN, Tania & MONTRUL, Silvina. *Second Language Acquisition: Introducing Intervention Research*. Cambridge University Press, 2023.
- MARCELINO, M. The Compounding Parameter and L2 Acquisition. In: Kate Bellamy; Michael Child; Paz González; Antje Muntendam; M. Carmen Parafita Couto. (Org.). *Multidisciplinary Approaches to Bilingualism in the Hispanic and Lusophone World*. 13ed. Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company, 2017b, v. 13, p. 123-147.
- MONTRUL Silvina. *Native Speakers, Interrupted: Differential Object Marking and Language Change in Heritage Languages*. Cambridge University Press; 2022.
- ROBERTS, Ian. *Parameter Hierarchies and Universal Grammar*. Oxford University Press, 2021. ISBN: 9780198871163 ([Oxford Academic](https://www.oxfordacademic.com/9780198871163)).

### Supplementary Bibliography

- CARNIE, Andrew. **Syntax**: a generative introduction. Wiley, 2012.
- LUST, B. C. & FOLEY, C. *First Language Acquisition – The Essential Readings*. Blackwell Publishing. 2004.
- MAGALHÃES, T.; MARCELINO, M. . Contribuições das pesquisas em aquisição para o ensino de clíticos do português. In: Núbia Ferreira Rech; Simone Guesser. (Org.). *Morfologia, sintaxe e semântica na educação básica*. 1ed. Campinas: Pontes, 2021, v. 2, p. 93-131.
- WHITE, Lydia. *Second Language Acquisition: From Initial State to Final State*. 2000.
- WHITE, Lydia. On the Nature of Interlanguage Representation: Universal Grammar in the Second Language. In: Doughty, C. & Michael H. Long. *The Handbook of Second Language Acquisition*. Blackwell. 2003.

### PARTICIPATING PROFESSOR(S)

Name	Course	Title	Work regime	Hour Load
Marcello Marcelino	Letters	PhD	Full time	40 hours
Telma Magalhães	Letters	PhD	20 hours	20 hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Cynthia De Roma	Letters	PhD		
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