



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Doctoral Programme Course

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Doctoral Programmes Board of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences on April 30, 2021.

Discipline/Main Field of Study

English

Course Title

Social perspectives on second language learning – theories and methods

Higher Education Credits

7.5

Language of Instruction

English

Degree Level

Doctoral

Target Group and Prerequisites

Enrollment in a PhD program in the Humanities or Social Sciences.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to

- give an account of, critically evaluate, and contrast current socially oriented theories of second language learning,

- critically examine and evaluate published empirical studies in the field of second language learning,
- demonstrate knowledge of relevant qualitative research methods in the field and critically assess the suitability of different research methods and types of data for different research questions, and
- plan a research study in the field of second language learning and justify the plan through a coherent argument based on relevant research.

Course Content

The course covers theories, theoretical developments, and research methods in the field of second language learning. The course content mainly focuses on social perspectives on second language learning and relevant, especially qualitative, research methods. Approaches such as sociocultural theory, sociocognitive perspectives, conversation analysis, and language socialisation are treated theoretically and illustrated methodologically using selected empirical studies. Through discussion of theoretical and methodological aspects of previous and current perspectives on second language learning, students develop the knowledge required to plan a research project, including research questions, data collection, methods of analysis, and ethical considerations in research.

Course Literature

See separate document.

Examination

All learning objectives are assessed in individual written hand-in assignments and an oral presentation.

Grades

One of the grades Fail (U) or Pass (G) is awarded in the examination of the course.

Quality Assurance

Follow-up relating to learning conditions and goal-fulfilment takes place both during and upon completion of the course in order to ensure continuous improvement.