



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculties of Humanities and Theology

SPVM11, Language and Linguistics: First- and Second Language Acquisition, 7.5 credits

*Språk och språkvetenskap: Första- och andraspråksinläring, 7,5
högskolepoäng*

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The pro-dean for First-Cycle Studies at the Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2022-04-01 to be valid from 2022-04-01, autumn semester 2022.

General Information

The course is an elective component of the Master of Arts programme in Language and Linguistics. It may also be offered as a freestanding course and can be included in a first or second cycle degree.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies

Language and Linguistics

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the students shall be able to

Knowledge and understanding

- be able to give an overall account for the historical development of First Language Acquisition (FLA) and Second Language Acquisition (SLA) as research disciplines to date,
- be able to give an account of external and internal factors and how they can influence language acquisition process in first and second languages,
- be able to account for similarities as well as differences between FLA and SLA,
- be able to, in broader terms, account for common research methods used in FLA and SLA research,

Competence and skills

- be able to in general terms analyze the relation between theoretical frameworks, methods and empirical data in FLA and SLA research,
- be able to identify and formulate an FLA or SLA research question and to discuss and evaluate various suggestions for analysis, in dialogue with previous research in the field,
- in written and oral assignments show an awareness of the research fields, access, and dissemination of research in journals, conferences and other academic outlets,

Judgement and approach

- be able to critically evaluate concepts such as “first language”, “second language”, “language knowledge” and “language proficiency”,
- be able to identify and discuss ethical considerations in FLA and SLA research.

Course content

The course covers both FLA and SLA, with emphasis on the latter. It is aimed at providing students with knowledge and understanding of current FLA and SLA theories and research, as well as the historical origins and developments of these disciplines. It also serves to provide basic competence and skills for designing and outlining an empirical study. Moreover, a selection of seminal articles are studied and discussed.

The course focuses on fundamental factors and concepts such as the individual, cognitive and psychological aspects, age, domains of language, language processing and representation, developmental aspects, input, output and interaction, instructed and naturalistic learning, implicit and explicit learning, and cross-linguistic influence.

The relation between theoretical frameworks, methodologies and empirical data in FLA and SLA research is highlighted.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures and seminars.

The course is divided into two phases:

- A) A basic phase providing an overview of fundamental considerations in FLA and SLA research.
- B) A specialization phase in which the student in an individual project designs a smaller-scale study dealing with a relevant topic, and accounts for a possible outcome.

In addition, students are required to give an oral presentation, either in phase A or phase B (depending on the number of participants).

Assessment

Assessment of phase A is done through an individual take-home exam, whereas the assessment of phase B is done through an individual paper.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.

Grades

Marking scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction.

In order to get a Pass with distinction on the whole course, students must receive a Pass with distinction on both phase A and B.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must have a Bachelor's degree in a language subject or linguistics or the equivalent. Furthermore, students must have English 6 from Swedish upper secondary school or the equivalent.

Further information

1. The course is offered at the Centre for Languages and Literature, Lund University.
2. The credits allocated for course content that in whole or in part is commensurate with another course can only be credited once for a degree.

Subcourses in SPVM11, Language and Linguistics: First- and Second Language Acquisition

Applies from H22

- 2201 Fundamental considerations in FLA and SLA research, 3,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction
- 2202 Individual project, 4,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction