

## **Course Syllabus: English Lecture A - Second Language Acquisition (1 credits)**

**The University of Shiga Prefecture & The Japan Center for Michigan Universities**

**Hikone, Shiga JAPAN: *In accordance with Michigan State University policy***

**University of Shiga Prefecture – Room TBD**

**Fall Semester 2017: Begins September 29**

**No class: November 10 (School Holiday)**

**10 classroom days X 90 minute lectures (15hrs.)**

**Instructor: Martin Hawkes**

Fridays 2:50- 4:20 P.M.

Office Hours: By appointment: Please email me.

E-mail: [hawkes.m@shc.usp.ac.jp](mailto:hawkes.m@shc.usp.ac.jp)

### **Description of the Course**

In this course, we will explore the topic of second language acquisition (SLA). We will start by looking at some of the differences between learning a first and second language. Next, we will explore the history of second language teaching and learning, and how people have learned over time, including popular approaches of recent years. Then, we will examine the factors which make a good language learner. After that, we will look at the 'systems' and 'skills' that are needed to master a second language. As learners of English and/or other foreign languages, the knowledge gained on this course should help students understand what it is required to become a good language learner.

### **Instructional Objectives**

The goal of this course is both to learn about how second languages are acquired, and for students to apply this knowledge to reflect on their own second language learning. Also, this course aims to practice and develop important listening and note-taking skills for lecture courses.

## **Course Requirements/ Assignments and Evaluations**

**Punctuality and Attendance:** Students are required to attend all lecture meetings, field observations, and other scheduled events programmed for this course. Excessive tardiness to class and class activities may result in the dismissal of a student from a program.

**Absence Policy:** Your attendance is very important not only to you but also to other classmates. Due to the nature of Study Abroad, no unannounced absences will be permitted. Your tardiness may be counted as 1/2 unexcused absence. Excessive unexcused absences may result in dismissal from the course.

**Preparation and Participation:** The student is expected to prepare for class by completing the reading assignments and preparing for selected discussion topics prior to attending class. Participation is a key element to your success in this course. Class discussion and interactivity with the class as a whole is critical to developing an awareness of the content described in lectures and readings. Participation constitutes 10% of your grade.

### **Papers:**

One writing assignments based on class content (2-3 pages)

Deadlines for the papers/projects will be provided.

### **Recommended Reading**

Materials will be provided in class and via PDF downloads.

### **Academic Honesty and Classroom Etiquette**

Students should always value academic honesty in their own work. In addition to other things, plagiarism is considered among the most blatant forms of academic honesty. This means that a student will not submit any written work that has been copied from the internet or any other form of published media. Additionally a student will not submit any work that has been written by another person without citing that source and will never submit another's work as his/her own. This would also include unacknowledged paraphrasing. As specified by university policy, such academic dishonesty may result in a penalty grade for the course. For more information on academic dishonesty policy please refer to the Ombudsperson's webpage:

<https://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/academic-integrity/plagiarism-policy.html>

## **Grading Criteria and Grading Scale**

You will be graded on four elements: a) Writing Assignment b) attendance, c) participation, d) Weekly quizzes: 35%.

|                         |                            |                |                    |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Attendance <sup>1</sup> | Participation <sup>2</sup> | Weekly quizzes | Writing Assignment |
| 20%                     | 10%                        | 35%            | 35%                |

□ NOTE 1: Attendance makes up to 20 % of the whole course grade. However, if a student excessively misses classes without advising the instructor, the student may be terminated from the course.

□ NOTE 2: Participation means “active” participation. Simply being there is not the same as participating. Points for participation will be awarded only when students are actively engaging in classroom activities, discussion, field exploration, and other learning activities for this course.

## **Grade Breakdown**

Conversion Table between 4.0 Scale and Points

|           |       |       |       |       |       |       |      |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| 4.0 point | 3.5   | 3.0   | 2.5   | 2.0   | 1.5   | 1.0   | 0.0  |
| 90-100    | 85-89 | 80-84 | 75-79 | 70-74 | 65-69 | 60-64 | 59 ↓ |

## **Class Schedule and Assignments**

Please note that the student is expected to have read and studied the assigned reading and prepared for discussions prior to each class. Be sure to bring to class the texts under discussion.

### **Class 1:**

Orientation; Animal communication systems

### **Class 2:**

First language acquisition I

**Class 3:**

First language acquisition II

**Class 4:**

Introduction to SLA; SLA contexts

**Class 5:**

SLA theory & language teaching I

**Class 6:**

SLA theory & language teaching II

**Class 7:**

SLA theory & language teaching III

**Class 8:**

SLA theory & language teaching IV

**Class 9:**

Individual differences in SLA I

**Class 10:**

Individual differences in SLA II  
Writing assignment due.