

2013 Curriculum Grant Awardee

Dr. Justin White

College: Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters
Department: Languages Linguistics and Comparative Literature

Project Description:

The proposed enhancements address central research agendas in the field of Second Language Acquisition (SLA) (cognition) and Foreign-Language Teaching (application) by incorporating empirical research from these areas at the levels of Exposure (Knowledge) and Skill Building (Plan of Action and Critical Thinking). At the level of Exposure, in Knowledge, students will be exposed to empirical research studies and guided with a series of questions to find/interpret important information in the studies (i.e., theoretical framework, procedures, materials, participants, findings) (assessed with a course rubric). Their knowledge will be a focus of the class/small-group discussions (assessed with a course rubric), mid-term/final exams including essay questions addressing theoretical, empirical, and methodological questions. At the level of Skill Building, in Critical Thinking, they will provide abstract and response papers including a summary the experiments and results (including theoretical framework, procedures, and findings), a critical analysis of the study (procedure, materials, and findings, which will also include an interpretation of the application of the results, and identify the strengths and weaknesses of the study and conclusions. In-class/at-home activities with data sets will be used to train students to interpret statistical results and discuss relevant findings. At the level of Skill Building, in Plan of Action, students will develop teaching portfolios including evaluations of textbook activities based on their knowledge of research, conduct observations, and create lesson plans (i.e., justifying an activity selected based on research). As skill building, students will apply research/theory by executing one fifteen-minute lesson plan in a foreign language class. This course is a requirement of the English as a Second Language (ESL) certificate (the largest producer in our department), serves as an elective in Linguistics (the largest degree producer, minors and majors, in our department), and students from the School of Education participate in this certificate.

List of Courses scheduled for Enrichment:

Introduction to SLA and FL Teaching Pedagogy (LIN 4930)

- a) Proposed Undergraduate Research Level: Skill building
- b) Listed Student Learning Outcomes Targeted: Knowledge, Plan of Action, and Critical Thinking