Understanding how people learn and fail to learn second/foreign languages has been investigated as a critical social and psycholinguistic issue since 1980s. Second languages are vitally important to diverse groups of people, ranging from refugees to college students facing foreign language requirements.

Drawing extensively on empirical research and theoretical works in linguistics, sociology, education, and psychology, this course explores major contemporary SLA theories. Through extensive reading and discussion, course participants will develop a thorough knowledge of mainstream SLA theories and major issues that are widely debated in the field of SLA.