

Course Description

Learning a Language on Your Own *Spring 2017*

Gray Cox

Office on second floor of Davis Center

Class W 4:10-5:35 -- Seafox Seminar Room

Office Hours T 1-4:00, W 9-11

and by appointment or coincidence

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The goal of this course to help each student design and implement an effective learning program for the study of a language of her or his choice at whatever level of learning she or he is currently at. A very wide variety of general strategies, resources and practical advice for independent language learning are reviewed in weekly class sessions along with progress and reflection reports from each student that can help guide and motivate independent work. The core common text for this work will be [Betty Lou Leaver](#), [Madeline Ehrman](#), and [Boris Shekhtman's Achieving Success in Second Language Acquisition](#). The primary focus of the class is on the development and implementation of each student's individually designed plan for learning a language of their choice. Materials for this will be identified by each student as part of their work on their chosen language. Progress in these plans are discussed in one on one weekly meetings with the teacher. Plans may include the use of software, peer tutors, Skype, videos, standard texts, flash cards, specialized technical material, music, visual art, field trips, and a wide variety of other materials as appropriate. Students will take part in a language fair later in the term. Evaluation will be based on the clarity, coherence and effectiveness of the student's developed plan and the discipline with which they actually pursue it and revise it appropriately as the term progresses. Students will be asked to meet with the instructor prior to the start of the term to discuss their motivation, aims, possible resources and possible plans for language learning after the course is over. Permission of the instructor is required. No prerequisites, lab fee of \$35, level is variable, class size limited to 10.

Two further points concerning this course are essential to note:

With regard to plagiarism: By enrolling in an academic institution, a student is subscribing to common standards of academic honesty. Any cheating, plagiarism, falsifying or fabricating of data is a breach of such standards. A student must make it his or her responsibility to not use words or works of others without proper acknowledgment.

Plagiarism is unacceptable and evidence of such activity is reported to the academic dean or his/her designee. Two violations of academic integrity are grounds for dismissal from the college. Students should request in-class discussions of such questions when complex issues of ethical scholarship arise.

With regard to workload: In addition to the 1.5 hours of scheduled class time every week and the weekly half hour meeting one on one with me, I expect that between readings, going over notes, doing assignments, preparing for and taking part in the

Language Fair and other activities you will spend at least an additional 13 hours a week on this course, for a total of at least 150 hours over the term devoted to this class.

Class Schedule:

3/29 Introductions, syllabus review

In class viewings:

Why learn a language:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0MUsVcYhERY>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mzEjzL6_gyE

Some strategies for learning 20 languages

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FOiXtWcQ8GI>

NOTE: Assignment for first one on one or small group meeting with Gray: Draft a detailed learning plan for the term listing 1. Your goals for learning this term; 2. the resources you will experiment with, when and how; 3. what you see as your biggest challenges and how you will address them and what you see as your greatest strengths and how you will draw on them; and 4. and what follow up plans you have or would like to make for learning the language after the end of the term. NOTE: You should keep a detailed version of this that includes the urls for the websites you will use and the access information for things of other sorts.

4/5 Reading: ACHIEVING SUCCESS IN SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION, “Note to Reader” and chapter 1

First Homework assignment: Exercise for class: Bring a copy of your learning plan along with notes on at least the ways chapter 1 might suggest ways of adding to it or raise questions that might help you find ways to improve it. (Be creative and reflective in drawing on the chapter -- find at least a minimum of 5.)

4/12 Chapter 2

4/19 Chapter 3

4/26 Chapter 4

5/3 Chapters 5 & 6

5/10 Chapters 7 & 8

http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/iegps/travel-safety.html?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=

5/17 Chapter 9

NOTE: Language Fair held from 4:00 to 5:30.

5/24 Chapter 10 and “Epilogue”

5/31 Closing

