PSYC 5371  
Theories of Second Language Acquisition  

Three Semester Hours  

**Description:** This course presents a critical evaluation of current and historical theories of second language acquisition. It examines the cognitive, social, and cultural mechanisms underlying the acquisition/learning of bilingualism and multilingualism. Prerequisite: Graduate standing, or permission of the instructor. 

**Justification:** To increase the course offering for the MS in psychology. Currently, course offerings in the MS in psychology are very limited, and graduate students simply do not have enough courses to take. Also, the inclusion of this course reflects the current and future focus of the MS in psychology, as well as the faculty’s expertise in cross-language, bilingualism, and multilingualism. Specifically, in order to effectively attract potential graduate students, the overall long-term plan, in addition to offering a general MS in psychology, is to offer an additional degree track in Bilingual/Second Language Cognition. Addresses issues important to the understanding of learning and fills a gap in the psychology discipline. 

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:** Upon completion of this course the Graduate Students will:

1. Be able to critically interpret second/multi language research articles. 
2. Analyze and synthesize linguistic (e.g., Language Acquisition Device, Universal Grammar) and cognitive principles underlying second language acquisition/learning research. 
3. Write a critical literature review on a topic in second/multi language research. 
4. Formulate a theoretically sound research idea in the area of second language research.