Syllabus for
Reading in a Second Language (364X)

Objectives:
This course will assist students in making a critical examination of the theories and research related to learning to read in a second language. Learning to read in a second language will be discussed in the contexts of both children and adult learners. Students will become familiar with the similarities and differences between first- and second-language theories and research on learning to read. Applications of research findings to pedagogy will be emphasized. Assignments and specific additional readings will be determined by the interests of the class.

Week One Nature of L2 Reading. Relevance of L1 reading research to L2 reading research. Discussion of perspectives on reading: reader-based, text-based, information processing, social. Differences, similarities and overlap among these perspectives.

Week Two Introduction to the database of studies of second language reading.

Week Three Word level issues in reading

Week Four Text-based factors that impact on L2 reading comprehension. Role of comprehension strategies. Role of orthography and syntax.

Week Five Role of vocabulary in learning a second language. Relevance of L1 vocabulary research for L2 reading.


Week Seven Instructional issues in teaching L2 reading. Role of reading strategies in L2 reading; relevance of L1 strategy research. Synthesis of current research issues in curriculum and instruction. Issues of transfer.

Week Eight Instructional issues, cont’d

Week Nine Work of National Literacy Panel

Week Ten Wrap-up, presentations, evaluation
**Required readings (On Reserve)**


Pang, E. S., & Kamil, M. L. (In Press). Second Language Issues in Early Literacy and Instruction. (Available as handout.)