GRADUATE LEVEL
NELC N696

TEACHING LESS COMMONLY TAUGHT LANGUAGES (LCTLs):
Middle Eastern and Central Asian Languages

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Fall Semester 2009
3 credit/hr
Open to all Graduate students
The course is an obligatory part of the language Associate Instructor training program of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures.

Brief Description:
The course aims to develop and practice skills and techniques for teaching Less Commonly Taught Languages to adults, in the context of (a) recent approaches and research into language and language teaching; (b) national needs and national recommendations and standards (such as Proficiency Guidelines); and (c) where relevant in fitting with the language curriculum for these languages at IU.

Objectives:
The objectives of the course are:
- to introduce the linguistic and cognitive dimensions of language (including pragmatic semantics, grammar, written and spoken differences)
- to acquaint students with the principles and the current issues related to learning a first and a foreign/second language
- to enable students to apply the principles of performance based language teaching/learning to LCTLs
- to enable students to evaluate, adapt, and be able to integrate instructional media used in learning and teaching a foreign language: textbooks, audio and audio-visual materials and computer-assisted language learning materials as well as writing new materials

Contents:
Methodology is central to classroom practices in language teaching. This course unit will begin by examining the theoretical origins and pedagogic influence of various approaches to language teaching (eg structural, communicative, humanistic, task-based); the development of defined methods that relate to these approaches, and finally the wide range of techniques, traditional and more contemporary, that are currently at the disposal of informed language teachers. It will consider, how the concept of 'appropriate methodology' might help teachers develop approaches to teaching that are context-sensitive, but at the same time consistent with current research and thinking.
The topics that the course will cover include the following:
Week I
Topic: The nature of human language and language learning (interaction between psychology, linguistics and language learning)

Language tutors’ beliefs about FL learning/ being a good teacher/
reflective practice
How do we learn languages?
Understanding the University language learner: Individual differences
Learner strategies

Week II
Topic: Approaches to language teaching

Grammar translation/ Direct Method/ Audiolingual/ Communicative/
Form focused instruction/ Task based instruction/
Which method?

Week III
Topic: Course design and lesson Planning

Week IV
Topic: Promoting Learner Autonomy

Why autonomy?
Developing autonomous learning
Developing learner strategies
Evaluation: self and peer assessment

Week V
Topic: Information and communications technology

Week VI
Topic: Classroom management

Week VII
Topic: Assessment

Week VII
Topic: Proficiency Guidelines (ACTFL; ILR; European)
Cultural Proficiency
Week VIII
Topic: Teaching Speaking and Writing skills

Week IX
Topic: Teaching Listening and Reading skills

Week X
Topic: Using Written texts in the class

Week XI
Topic: Teaching Vocabulary

Week XII
Topic: Teaching Grammar

Week XIII
Topic: Using Translation in class

Learning and Teaching Methods:
3hrs/week combination of lectures, discussion and task presentation. Details of the reading list will be adjusted for each student depending on the LCTL that he/she wants to work on.

Assessment:
3x oral presentation/ teaching practice (with bibliography and outline) 30%
Reading assignments: summary and commentary 20%
1 x final project (5,000 words) 50%

Preliminary Reading List
A more extensive general bibliography will be provided. The following constitutes a list of core readings.


WEB SITES


http://www.eric.ed.gov/

http://www.councilnet.org/home.htm

http://www.actfl.org/

http://www.wm.edu/aata/
(American Association of Teachers of Arabic)

http://www.iflta.org/#
(Indiana Foreign Language Teachers Association)

http://nmelrc.byu.edu/
(National Middle East Language Resource Center)
http://nmelrc.org/handbooks/

http://arabicwithoutwalls.ucdavis.edu/aww/info.html

http://listserv.linguistlist.org/archives/arabic-l.html