Course title (English): Second language learning via Immersion

Course title (Hebrew): רכישת שפה שנייה דרך הטמעה

Course number: 133.1.0134

Course slot (semester/s, weekday/s, hours):

Lecturer: Maayan Golan

Lecturer’s conference hour and contact details: thetreehouseb7@gmail.com
Office hours: Sundays 10:00-12:00

Course description & objectives:
In this course, we will learn a few basic theories in second language acquisition (SLA) with a focus on the spoken language. These will include the topics: Bilingualism, Child directed speech, foreigner directed speech, the segmentation problem, communicational pressure, multi-word units as building blocks, word-object association, prosody and pronunciation in SLA, mimicry and mirror neurons, statistical learning, social-emotional learning and more. We will be meeting once a month to learn theory and connect it to the practice.

As part of the course, we will focus on application of the material learned. Students will receive the opportunity to teach a second language (SL) in an immersive environment. Students will join The Treehouse-Language center’s activity in Beer-Sheva to help kids and teens practice their spoken language skills in a supported environment. Students will gradually step into the world of second language teaching facilitating with supervision and guidance of our experienced teachers at The Treehouse.

Students will join our open space called ‘Gametime’ where they will be invited to first observe other teachers to learn, next, will shadow our teachers and join the groups to learn the different age ranges and teaching techniques, and lastly will be guided to come up with their own activities and teach them on their own. All teaching at Gametime is held in small groups of 3-6 kids at a time. Students of this course will be guided to find their own passion and interest as language teachers and learn valuable techniques to teach the spoken language. To enroll for the course, students will be asked to schedule a short interview to check suitability and assign an appropriate language for them to teach (the options are English, Hebrew and Arabic).
Course requirements:
Watch Digital course and submit responses – 15%
Submit short Academic field report and lesson plans- 45%
A short Presentation – 40%

Students must attend at least 80% of the classes. Theory lessons and practical teaching experiences will be counted separately. Failing to do this will result in automatic failure.

Topics & bibliography
Topics:
Bilingualism
Child directed speech.
Foreigner directed speech.
The segmentation problem.
Communicational pressure.
Multi-word units as building blocks ‘Starting Big’.
Word-object association.
Mimicry and mirror neurons.
Statistical learning.
Social-emotional learning and more.

Reading:


