

Doc. Natalia F. Orlova, CSc

EFL Didactics 1 (Codes in STAG 4212 & 4413)

Winter Semester

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Course Description:

This course is aimed at building up the basis of didactic competence of prospective EFL teachers. It involves an in-depth examination of current practice in EFL teaching and learning. It builds on the knowledge acquired in linguistic disciplines, and it focuses on current paradigms of teaching individual components of the language system. Modern approaches, methods and techniques to the “four skills” integration will be provided through lectures, class demonstrations, video demonstrations and class discussions.

Course objectives. By the end of the course, students in this class are expected to:

- Understand issues and concepts in pedagogical research that are related to EFL teaching and develop a historical understanding of language-teaching methodology
- Be able to apply concept of communicative competence to classroom skill integration.
- Be able to introduce grammatical items and help learners to practice them in meaningful contexts and relevant activities.
- Select and create activities that help learners to learn and practice lexis.
- Apply principles of designing listening techniques to their own classes.
- Gain knowledge in planning, creating and delivering structured and coherent EFL lessons.
- Develop effective teaching strategies through a range of experiences (observing and teaching) in actual EFL classes.
- Reflect on and learn from their own learning and teaching experiences.

Course Topics:

- Language teaching development: a brief historical overview.
- An enlightened, eclectic approach; the subject matter of EFL teaching. The ‘professional’ teacher. Foundational principles of language pedagogy.
- Lexis as an integral part of S, L, R and W. The notion of sub/micro/enabling skills.
- Grammar skills as an integral part of S, L, R and W; basic principles of teaching grammar.
- Teaching receptive skills: principles and practices. Classroom activities for developing listening comprehension. The relationship between listening and speaking.
- Teaching reading.

Credit requirements:

- 80 % class attendance.
- Active **participation** in the seminar discussions. Regular fulfillment of assignments.
- Collecting and sharing with peers in class activities aimed at practicing lexis (3 activities) and practicing grammar (3 activities). Annotation of the activity should include
 - students’ level, aim/objectives, language focus, procedures.
- Designing and teaching peers a task aimed at development of **listening skills** (to be done in a team of two).
- Team teaching (2-3 students) at school a mini lesson (games for learning grammar/lexis)
- **Regular reflection** on the ‘can-do’ statements from the self-assessment section in the EPOSTL.

Core Reading:

Brown, H. Douglas. (2007). *Teaching by principles: An interactive approach to language pedagogy*. Pearson

Scrivener, G. (2005). *Learning teaching: A guidebook for English language teachers*. Macmillan Books for Teaching.

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Thornbury, S. (2002). *How to teach vocabulary*. Pearson.

Thornbury, S. (1999). *How to teach grammar*. Pearson.

Newby, D., Allan, R., Fenner, A.-B., Jones, B., Komorowska, H. and Soghikyan, K. (2007). *European portfolio for student teachers of languages. A reflection tool for language teacher education*. Strasbourg/Graz: Council of Europe Publishing, <http://epostl2.ecml.at>

Suggested reading:

Alderson, J. (2000). *Assessing Reading*. CUP pp.1-31

Anderson, A. Lynch, T. (1980). *Listening*. OUP Ch 3

Buck, G. (2001). *Assessing Listening*. CUP pp. 29-60

Savignon, S. *Communicative Language Teaching: Linguistic Theory and Classroom Practice*. Retrieved from http://yalepress.yale.edu/excerpts/0300091567_1.pdf

Suggested viewing (to be done at home):

CLT videos

Jack Richards explains what CLT is

<http://www.elweekly.com/elt-newsletter/2012/10/vol-4-issue-41-video-jack-c-richards-on-communicative-language-teaching/>

Jack C. Richards on Listening Comprehension

<http://www.elweekly.com/elt-newsletter/2012/10/vol-4-issue-43-video-jack-c-richards-on-listening-comprehension/>

Interesting tips for meaningful situations while teaching Present continuous + Present perfect

<http://www.elweekly.com/elt-newsletter/2012/09/vol-4-issue-36-why-is-lesson-planning-important/>