Dr Alberto Frasson

**Bilingualism and Second Language Acquisition (1 DSM)**

This course offers an introduction to the linguistic, cognitive and sociocultural dimensions of bilingualism and second language acquisition. Students will examine key topics including the critical period hypothesis, first versus second language acquisition and the processes underlying phonology, morphology, syntax, and lexicon acquisition. The course also addresses code-switching, heritage languages and interfaces between language and cognition. Attention is given to theoretical models and empirical findings on second language processing, with special focus on the challenges for the acquisition of various components of human language, including phonology, morphology, and syntax. In addition to theoretical foundations, students will gain hands-on experience by working with real texts produced by bilinguals, allowing them to analyze features of bilingual language production. The course also includes a practical introduction to the CHILDES database as a resource for studying child and bilingual language acquisition. The language of instruction is English. No previous knowledge of linguistic theory is required.