

## MLC 105: Introduction to Self-Directed Language Learning

Professor: Dr. Nuray Grove

E-mail: [ngrove@richmond.edu](mailto:ngrove@richmond.edu)

Telephone: 287-6305

Office: Carole Weinstein International Center 201

Office Hours: WF 10:30-12:30 or by appointment.

Class Meetings: 3:00 pm - 4:15 pm T Puryear Hall G12-B.

**Textbook:** *How Language Works* by David Crystal (2007)

The course will use a Ning and a Diigo group.

**Course Goals:** Students in this course will learn about the relationship between language and culture as they develop the skills they need to become successful self-directed language learners.

**Course Organization:** Each class meeting will be organized around a discussion topic and a practice session in which they will acquire the knowledge and skills—including useful electronic skills—they need to fulfill their language learning goals.

### Course Topics :

- What does it mean to be an autonomous (self-directed) language learner ?
  - What knowledge and skills do you need to develop?
  - How will you become an autonomous learner?
- How are human languages structured?
  - What is distinctive about the language you are studying?
- How are human languages grouped into families?
  - To which family does your language belong? Will this help you learn?
- How is 'culture' defined? How are language and culture related?
- What resources will you use to learn?
  - Which strategies will you use to learn from these resources?
- What is the purpose of working with a language partner?
  - What are your responsibilities?
  - What are the language partner's responsibilities?

### Course Activities :

- Create and implement a learning plan
- Practice learning from a variety of resources (print, audio, video, etc.)
- Reflect on your independent study
- Reflect on your work with your language partner
- Create a learning journal

**Course Grades:** Students will be evaluated based on a learning journal, which will include both the activities completed and reflections upon those activities.

10 Journal entries will be graded (out of 13. You can select the 10 that will be graded).

Requirement	Percentage
Journal Entries	50% (5 % each)
Participation	20%
Summary/reflection paper	30%

### TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

WEEK	IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES	HOMEWORK
Week 1 January 11	Introduction to Course	Post learning journal # 1 Begin your blog--your learning journal--with a reflection on your experiences as a language learner. What did you enjoy? What did you dislike? Think about the <a href="#">FIRE model</a> . What kind of learner are you? What kinds of language learning activities suit your learning style? How do you think you should expand your learning activities?

<p>Week 2 January 18</p>	<p>Technology workshop at the Global studio (Carole Weinstein International Center, second floor)</p>	<p>Work on Learning Plans READ HLW 171-259 Post learning Journal # 2</p>
<p>Week 3 January 25</p>	<p>Discussing journal entries Class discussion of HLW 171-259 Learning new words</p>	<p>Complete your learning plan with examples of specific resources you plan to use and tasks you intend to complete. READ HLW 1 -57 Post your Learning Journal entry # 3: Response to reading AND Which resources are most helpful? What difficulties have you encountered? How do you assess your progress? Reflect on learning new words. Set yourself realistic goals for vocabulary learning.</p>
<p>Week 4 February 1</p>	<p>Discussing Learning plans Class discussion of HLW 1-57 How to improve listening skills</p>	<p>READ HLW 58-96 Post Journal entry # 4 <b>FIRST ASSESSMENT:</b> <b>1-learning plan (goals and methods)</b> <b>2- Four journal entries.</b></p>
<p>Week 5 February 8</p>	<p>Class Discussion of HLW 58-96 Extensive, intensive, selective reading</p>	<p><a href="#">Reading</a> from <a href="#">Figuring Foreigners Out</a> Post Journal entry # 5. Reflect on Cultural dimensions of learning a language.</p>

<p>Week 6 February 15</p>	<p>Class discussion of the <a href="#">Reading</a> from <a href="#">Figuring Foreigners Out</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are artifacts? (you will need to create 4 artifacts by the end of the semester).</li> </ul> <p>What resources are available for creating artifacts?</p>	<p>READ HLW 97-158</p> <p>Post Learning Journal Entry # 6</p> <p>What artifacts will you use to document your learning?</p>
<p>Week 7 February 22</p>	<p>Class discussion of HLW 97-158</p> <p>Reading and writing in a foreign language</p>	<p>Read HLW 336-364</p> <p>Post Learning Journal Entry # 7</p>
<p>Week 8 March 1</p>	<p>Class discussion of HLW 336-364</p> <p>How are language and culture related?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why do languages change? What does language change tell us about the culture(s) where the language is spoken?</li> <li>• What is the impact of a language’s history on its evolution?</li> </ul> <p>Group presentations of history of languages.</p> <p>Timeline Activity (History of the Language)</p>	<p><b>SECOND ASSESSMENT: Evaluating your progress as a reflective learner (your learning journal)</b></p> <p>READ HLW 364-408</p> <p>Post Learning Journal Entry # 8: Reflect on how knowing a language’s history can help you learn the language</p>
<p>Week 9 March 8</p>	<p>Class discussion of HLW 364-408</p> <p>What are frameworks for defining culture and assessing cultural competence?</p> <p>Discuss Cross Cultural Project for MLC 110</p> <p>Examine sample projects.</p>	<p>READ HLW 289-335</p> <p>Post Learning Journal Entry # 9: Reflect on “cultural competence”.</p>

Week 10 March 15	Class discussion of HLW 289-335	READ HLW 260-282  Post Learning Journal entry # 10: Reflect on one or more cross-cultural experiences
Week 11 March 22	Class discussion of HLW 260-282  How are language and culture related?  • What are goals for learning about culture?	Post Learning Journal entry # 11:  Include cultural learning in your goals and objectives document  Watch Culture Shock video
Week 12 March 29	Class discussion of Culture Shock video	Post Learning Journal entry # 12: Reflect on 'Culture Shock' activities  Prepare presentation of cultural project
Week 13 April 5	Cultural Presentations	Post Learning Journal entry # 13: Reflect on the cultural presentations
Week 14 April 12	Cultural Presentations	
Week 15 April 19	Cultural Presentations	
<b>ASSESSMENT: FINAL REFLECTION PAPER DUE April 30, 2011</b>		