

Learner Autonomy

Instructors: Satoko Kato, Jo Mynard, and Hisako Yamashita

Course Guide

This course introduces students to the field of language learner autonomy by exploring the key theoretical ideas, practical approaches and research agendas. It begins with the origins, definitions and theoretical underpinnings, and unpacks dimensions such as learning management, affective factors, social factors, resources and strategies. The course also has a very practical element and examines practical approaches to fostering autonomy both inside and outside the classroom. It examines resource-based approaches, learner development, curriculum-based approaches, ways to research autonomy, and the roles and development of teachers and learning advisors.

Course Objectives

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

- define learner autonomy
- provide a basic overview of some of the dimensions associated with learner autonomy (i.e. learning management, social factors, affective factors, learning strategies, reflection)
- discuss the roles of teachers in promoting learner autonomy
- explain what advising is and how it is different from teaching
- identify ways to research learner autonomy

Aims

This course will:

- Unpack the theoretical underpinnings of learner autonomy and examine definitions and dimensions
- Investigate how learner autonomy can be fostered both inside and outside the classroom
- Examine ways to research and evaluate autonomy

Outline of course and schedule

[Day 1: Saturday 5th September 2015, 15.00 - 20.00](#)

Jo Mynard

- Theoretical underpinnings of learner autonomy
- Practical applications (1) learning management

[Day 2: Sunday 6th September 2015, 10.00 - 17.30](#)

Hisako Yamashita

- Learning Strategies: cognitive, affective, and social aspects
- Practical applications (2): affective factors: ways to foster motivation

Day 3: Saturday 12 September 2015, 15.00 - 20.00

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- Advising in language learning: the theory
- Practical applications (3): advising in action

Day 4: Sunday 13th September 2015, 10.00 - 17.30

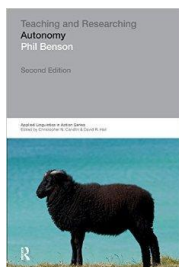
Jo Mynard

- Practical applications (4): resource and curriculum approaches
- Researching autonomy: examples and approaches

Day 5: Saturday 19th September 2015, 15.00 - 20.00

Satoko Kato

- Teacher roles and teacher autonomy
- Practical applications (5): Teacher development through reflective dialogue



Course textbook:

Teaching and Researching Autonomy in Language Learning, 2nd ed.

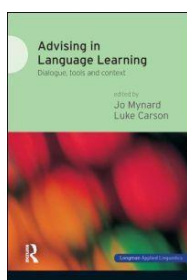
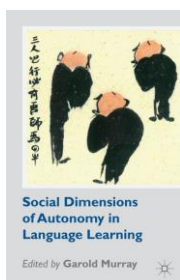
Authors: Benson, P.

Publisher: Pearson

Published: 2011

ISBN: 1408205017 / **ISBN-13:** 978-1408205013

Other useful (but optional) textbooks:



Apple, M. T., Da Silva, D., & Fellner, T. (Eds.) (2013). *Language learning motivation in Japan*. Bristol, UK: Multilingual Matters.

Murray, G. (Ed.) (2014). *Social dimensions of autonomy in language learning*. Basingstoke, UK: Palgrave Macmillan.

Mynard, J., & Carson, L. (Eds.) (2012). *Advising in language learning: Dialogue, tools and context*. Harlow, UK: Pearson.

Oxford, R. L. (2011). *Teaching and researching language learning strategies*. Harlow, UK: Pearson

Kato, S., & Mynard, J. (forthcoming, June 2015). *Reflective dialogue: Advising in language learning*. New York, NY: Routledge.

Assessment

Class participation and attendance: 20%

Online participation: 20%

Final written paper: 40%

Quizzes: 20%

Assessments

Final paper (40%):

1. Choose one concept within the field of autonomy that particularly interests you (e.g. identity, learning management, social factors, affective factors, learning strategies, reflection, attention, advising). You may refer to lecture notes or from other reading you have done.
2. Write a brief summary of some of the main points related of your chosen concept.
3. Write a reflection on your own professional development related to the field of learner autonomy, for example you could answer one or more of the following:
 - a. has your thinking changed as a result of the course? Why/why not/how?
 - b. How might you apply some new ideas to your practice
 - c. What further work do you plan to do in this area?

Due: one week after the completion of the course

Maximum length: 1500 words

[References](#)