

# Introduction to Language Studies (ILS): *Platform for Successful Foreign Language Learning*



## DLIFLC

DEFENSE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE  
FOREIGN LANGUAGE CENTER

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# Outlines

## *Introductory Points*

### *Introduction to Language Studies (ILS): Curriculum and Content*

## *Student Feedback*

## *Concluding Points*





# Introductory Points

## What we notice...

### General demographics:

- *Young*
- *HS graduates*
- *Varied TL learning experiences*
- ...



**to achieve**  
**2+/2+/2**



### Potential challenges:

- *How learning is structured*
- *Load of learning vs. other duties*
- *Motivation*
- ...



# Introductory Points

## What we notice...

### What it takes to succeed at the DLIF setting:

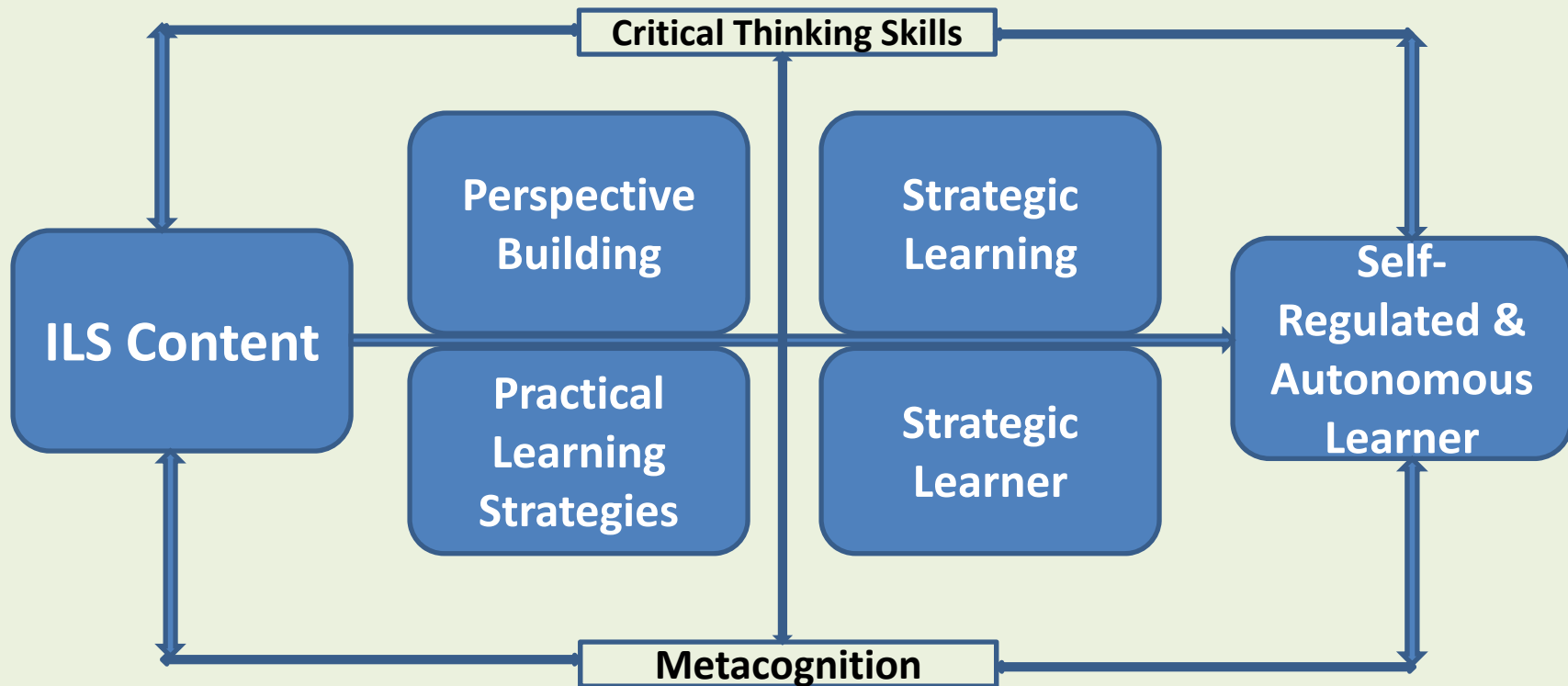
- *Self-regulated learner*
- *Solid control over learning*
- *Highly motivated*
- *Reinforce and expand learning beyond classroom*
- *Critical thinker*
- ...



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# *Introduction to Language Studies (ILS): Curriculum*

## ILS Curriculum

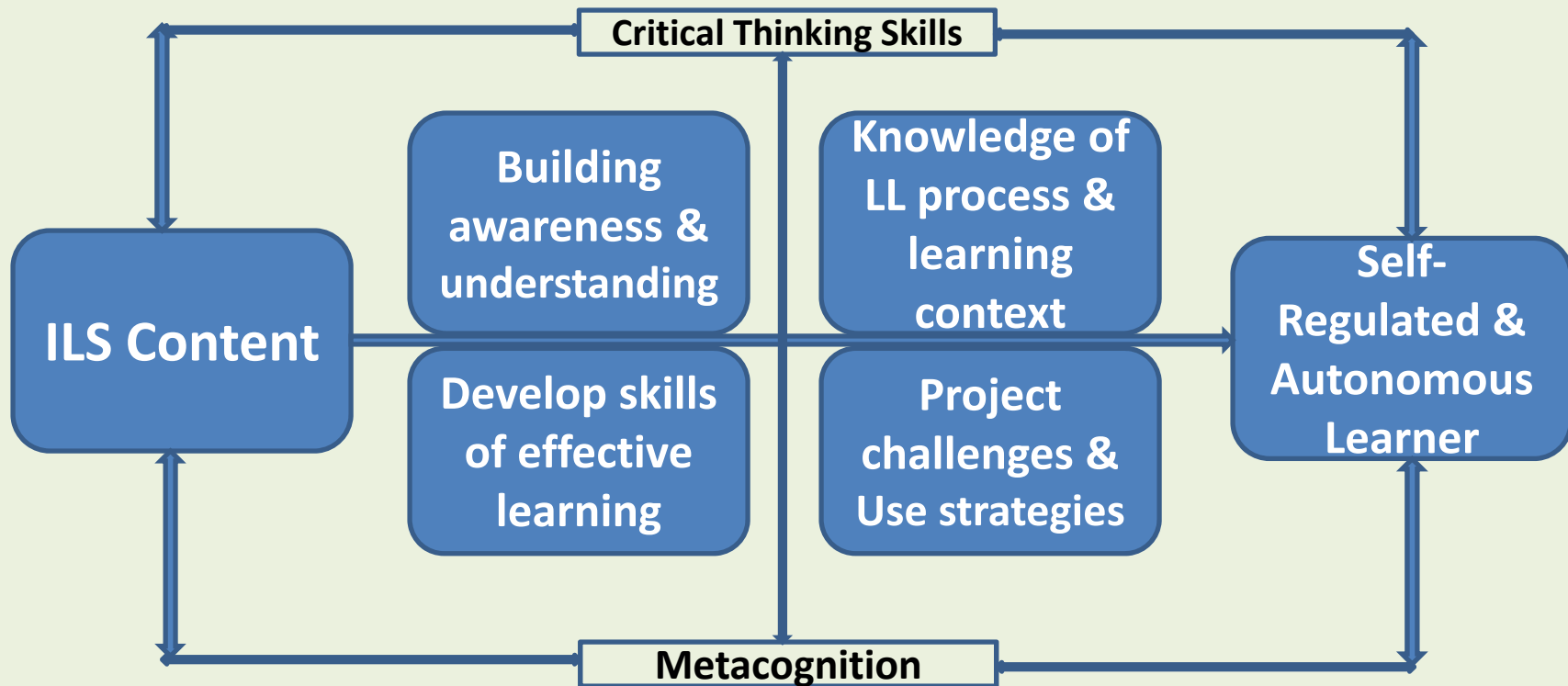




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# *Introduction to Language Studies (ILS): Curriculum*

## ILS Curriculum







# *Introduction to Language Studies (ILS): Curriculum*

- **Content** (what to learn) vs. **Process** (how to learn)
  - **Metacognition:** *Making the implicit explicit*
    - Consideration of preferred learning styles, strategies, study habits, motivation, affect, etc.
  - **Adaptability & Flexibility**
  - **Learner Autonomy**
  - **Problem Solving**
  - **Critical Thinking**
- To support reaching 2+/2+ and higher**



# *Introduction to Language Studies (ILS): Curriculum*

- **ILS101: 4 days at the beginning**
  - ✓ Principles in Language Learning (PLL)
  - ✓ English Grammar Refresher (EGR)
  - ✓ Vocabulary Learning Strategies (VLS)
  - ✓ Culture in Language Learning (CLL)
  - ✓ Study Strategy I: (SS-I)
  - ✓ Study Strategy II: (SS-II)
  
- **ILS102: 1 day 4-8 weeks after instruction**
  - Reflection: Progress Report
  - Strategy-based Reading, Listening, & Speaking
  - Survival Skills & Language Learning Tools (online)





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# *Introduction to Language Studies (ILS): Content*

Module	Length	Discussion topics
Principles in Language Learning	3 hours	How adults learn a new language, factors affecting success in learning a new language, learning styles and strategies, challenges in learning a new language at DLIFLC setting, how to anticipate and overcome them
Study Strategies I	2 hours	Motivation, time management, and mindsets (scenario-based)
Vocabulary Learning Strategies	2 hours	What knowing a new word means, strategies for learning new words and for better retention



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# *Introduction to Language Studies (ILS): Content*

Module	Length	Discussion topics
Study Strategies II	2 hours	Vowels and consonants across languages, writing systems across languages, strategies for learning new sounds/sounds that don't exist in English.
English Grammar Refresher	9 hours	Pretest and posttest, and 9 Basic English Grammar topics: Parts of Speech, Verb Tense and Aspect, Sentence Structure, Voice, etc.
Culture in Language Learning	6 hours	Awareness related to dialect differences, interactional norms, politeness strategies, beliefs, norms, and traditions



# *Introduction to Language Studies (ILS): Content*

## **Student Packet (soft copies)**

E-Portfolio	Records personal information, pretest and posttest grammar scores, Barsch Learning Styles survey results, and sample of writing. Expectation: used as one of the references by language instructors in Academic Counseling.
Learning plan	Covers ILS individual modules and Semesters 1-3 timeframe. Students use it in every ILS module lesson and is to be continued as their learning document . Expectation: students regularly evaluate and adjust the plans throughout their language learning.
Language Learning Strategies	A reference that contains a long list of practical learning strategies of different language skills: listening, reading, and speaking.
Study Strategies	A reference that contains metacognitive-based strategies and the strategies that correspond to learning styles.





# *Introduction to Language Studies (ILS): Content*

## ILS Content

### **Six ILS101 Modules:**

- Principles in Language Learning
- English Grammar Refresher
- Vocabulary Learning Strategies
- Study Strategies I
- Study Strategies II
- Culture in Language Learning



### **18 Basic Concepts:**

- Understanding the challenges for adults learning a new language
- Recognizing that people learn in similar and different ways from one other
- Exploring how students can adapt to the unique learning environment of DLI
- Noticing key differences/similarities between English and my target language
- How sounds in English are represented in its writing system
- Practicing strategies for learning new vocabulary
- ...



# *Introduction to Language Studies (ILS): Content*

## ILS Content

### **ILS102 Module:**

Progress Report Session

Strategy-based Reading

Strategy-based Listening

Strategy-based Speaking



### **Basic Concepts:**

- Factors that contribute to maximizing comprehension
- Strategies to tackle informative texts
- Strategies to tackle evaluative texts
- Strategies to develop speaking skills



## *End-of-Semester 2 (Eo2)*

### **Description:**

- Eo2 is DLPT Familiarization offered as a 2-hour interactive workshop at the end of the 2nd semester (Eo2).
- Length: 100 minutes
- Schedule: at the end of semester 2

### **Objectives:**

- Orients students to the Basics of DLPT (format, length, and patterns)
- Emphasizes interactional processes of lower-order and high-order thinking skills.
- Practices and applies level-appropriate strategies (orientational, informative, and evaluative texts vs. Task levels (Levels 1-3) for MC test.





## *End-of-Semester 3 (Eo3)*

### **Description:**

- It is Language Enhancement after DLI (LEAD) workshop
- Offered at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester prior to graduation
- Length: 60 minutes

### **Objectives:**

- LEAD is designed to help students to make the transition from classroom-based learning to field-based learning.

### **Modules include:**

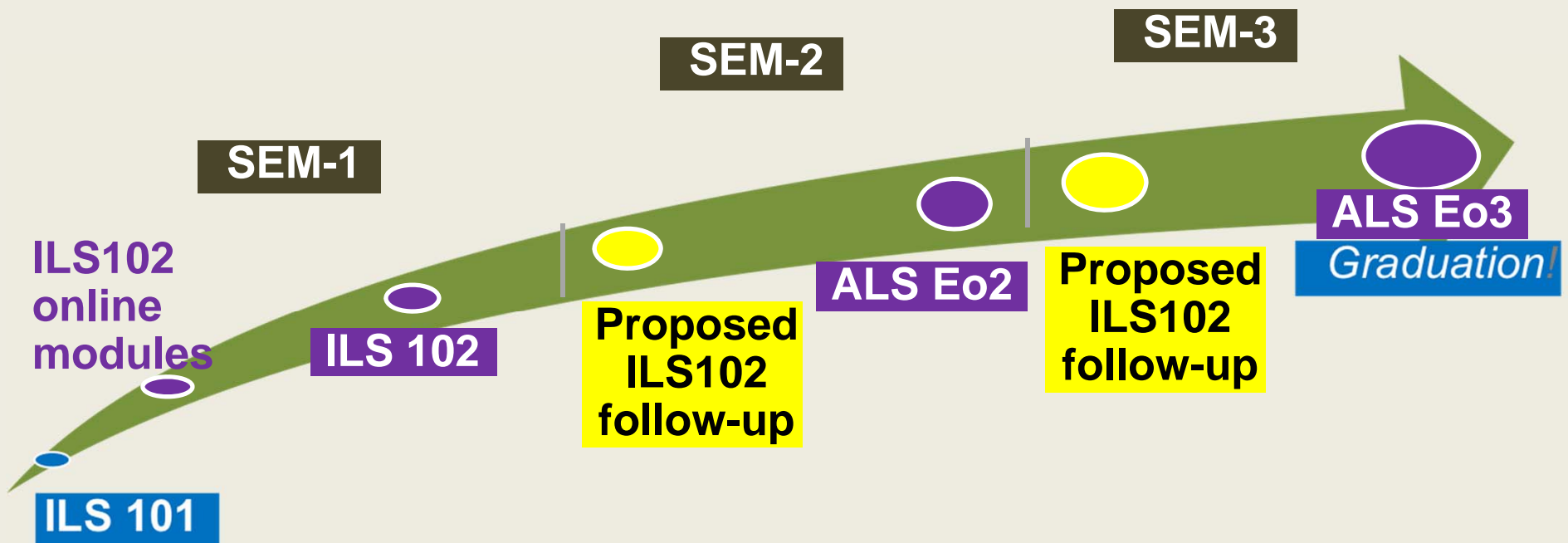
1. Setting Goals: Vision & Planning
2. Matching Career Goals with TL Modalities
3. LISTENING/READING MODALITIES CONNECTION: *DLPT Score & Career Goals*
4. Interactive Technology & Language Training

**Linguist's Guide: A reference for students**



# ILS and ALS Modules across three semesters

## Supporting 2+/2+/2 Initiatives





# *Student Feedback*

- **Description:** Each ILS101 module instruction ends with students completing an online student feedback survey. The survey consists of Likert statements and open-ended questions.
- **Student Feedback for 2014 ILS curriculum:** the content of this survey focuses on meeting objectives, quality of instructional materials, instructors' content knowledge and learner-centeredness of the class.
- **Student Feedback for 2017 ILS curriculum:** the content of this survey focuses on relevance and applicability of the ILS content to/in target language learning as well as the importance of integrating the ILS content into daily target language lessons.





## ***Concluding points***

- *Builds initial awareness on learning setting, structure of learning and expected goals.*
- *Engages in critical discussions on potential challenges and how to tackle them.*
- *Emphasizes the critical roles of learner autonomy.*