

**Teachers' Courses (OTCs)**

These courses are designed to offer a language and methodology 'update' for English Language Teachers in the public and private sectors.

The Course Director is Steve Hirschhorn, Principal of the School. Steve has spent many years teacher training and lecturing at Post-Graduate level. He has published a number of articles on teaching-related topics and has given workshops and seminars in many parts of the world, most recently at the University of Puebla, Mexico. Steve has trained in both Silent Way and Suggestopedia.

Our aim is that, at the end of the course, you will return to your classrooms refreshed, enthusiastic and keen to try out new ways of teaching.

**Morning sessions**

The morning sessions are generally theory-based offering background and support to the topic under discussion. Participants are invited to contribute fully; these are not lectures but workshops!

**Afternoon sessions**

There are four afternoon sessions each week focusing on practical applications for the ideas discussed during the morning sessions. The afternoons will be in a small group format where participants will be collaborating to reinforce ideas from the morning workshops.

Friday afternoons are free for you to explore Oxford on your own or with other students.

<i>2008 Dates</i>	<i>Programme Title and Code</i>	<i>Hours</i>	<i>1 week tuition fees</i>	<i>2 weeks tuition fees</i>
30 June – 11 July	<b>OTC1</b> Eclecticism: choosing the 'best' approach	9.30 – 12.45 Mon-Fri 14.00 – 15.30 Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs	255 GBP	510 GBP
14 - 25 July	<b>OTC2</b> Observing teachers in the Classroom		255 GBP	510 GBP
28 July - 8 August	<b>OTC3</b> Social Constructivism as an Approach		255 GBP	510 GBP

**Course descriptions:**

**OTC1:** An in-depth examination of a variety of methods and approaches from the past and present to inform a 21st century teacher's choices.

Intended for: teachers with or without experience.

**OTC2:** The psychology and practice of supportive observation in the classroom.

Intended for: trainers and Directors of Studies and teachers who observe peers.

**OTC3:** Principles and practice of Social Constructivism as a way forward in English Language Teaching.

Intended for: more experienced teachers who would like a different perspective on their and their students' work.

\* Please note that there is a registration fee of 65 GBP which covers registration on one or more courses.

**OTC1**  
**Eclecticism: choosing the 'best' approach**

These days most teachers tend to describe themselves as either Communicative or Eclectic. But what does eclectic really mean in teaching methodology?

It means that teachers need to have choices available; choices of technique and approach which suit the students and the context.

Over the past 50 years we have had experience of a huge variety of language teaching and learning methods and approaches, from behaviourist drilling through attempts to increase students' memory capacity to basing input on tasks and much more.

This course will take stock of methods and approaches, which could help teachers to increase their effectiveness. It will introduce teachers to the main features of such approaches as Task Based Learning, Total Physical Response, Silent Way, Suggestopedia, the Lexical Approach and others. There will be time to discuss the merits of each, examine the practical application of their techniques and review those aspects which can contribute to a teacher's eclecticism, so bringing maximum benefit to students.

Indicative Timetable	9.30 - 10.45	11.00 - 12.45	14.00 – 15.30	Optional reading
Monday	Introduction and identifying teachers' needs	Defining eclecticism	Approach, Method & Technique	to be selected
Tuesday	Teacher's books: do they guide us well?		Practical application activities	to be selected
Wednesday	Identifying methodological compatibility		Further discussions and practical examples	to be selected
Thursday	The Humanistic approaches: what connects them?		Further discussions and practical examples	to be selected
Friday	Total Physical Response: applicability		Free	
Monday	Silent Way: what Gattegno really meant		Practical uses for the Cuisenaire Rods	to be selected
Tuesday	Suggestopedia: an overview and current update		Practical application activities	to be selected
Wednesday	Task-Based Learning: implications and background		Practical application activities	to be selected
Thursday	The Lexical Approach: language theory & learning theory		Practical application activities	to be selected
Friday	The Communicative Approach: what is it?	Selecting the best for your context. Course feedback	Free	

OTC2  
Observing teachers in the Classroom

Most continuous professional development (CPD) programmes require that teachers observe and are observed. Little preparation or training is offered to teachers or managers who engage in this important and sensitive activity; as a result, observation is often seen as evaluative and critical.

This course will present ideas and techniques specifically designed to make observation and feedback both formative and supportive rather than simply evaluative.

Amongst the areas to be examined will be: the culture of observation, the role of the observer, how to give and receive feedback including a precise guide on language use in feedback and even hints on body language.

Indicative Timetable	9.30 - 10.45	11.00 - 12.45	14.00 – 15.30	Optional reading
Monday	Introduction and identifying your needs	Traditional observation models	Various record-taking models	to be selected
Tuesday	What should observation really do?	Focus criteria	Pre-observation checks	to be selected
Wednesday	Keeping a record: some practical examples		Practical application activities	to be selected
Thursday	While observing: affect and effect			to be selected
Friday	Let's watch a lesson		Free	
Monday	Designing feedback according to need	Preparing for feedback	Practical application activities	to be selected
Tuesday	Written vs spoken feedback: differences	Language use in feedback	Practical application activities	to be selected
Wednesday	Eye contact, body language and more		Practical application activities	to be selected
Thursday	Let's give feedback.		Feedback on feedback!	to be selected
Friday	Culture change: support vs assessment	Course feedback.	Free	

**OTC3**  
**Social Constructivism as an Approach**

Social Constructivism (SC) in learning springs largely from the work of Vygotsky and is based on notions of reality, knowledge, and learning.

There is an emerging trend amongst language teaching professionals to adopt the tenets of SC as a context in which interaction fosters learning.

Since learner interaction is now recognised as an integral part of the process of language acquisition, teachers may not have to make major changes in operational function to accommodate SC. However, learning does not occur simply because a teacher uses a technique, we need to create a social context in which learning is enhanced so this course will look closely at the work of Vygotsky and others to assess the applicability of SC in a 21<sup>st</sup> century language-learning environment.

Indicative Timetable	9.30 - 10.45	11.00 - 12.45	14.00 – 15.30	Optional reading
<b>Monday</b>	Introduction and identifying your interests	Background to Social Constructivism	Further discussions and practical examples	to be selected
<b>Tuesday</b>	Zone of Proximal Development applied		Further discussions and practical examples	to be selected
<b>Wednesday</b>	Social activities and learning		Further discussions and practical examples	to be selected
<b>Thursday</b>	The role of the teacher		Further discussions and practical examples	to be selected
<b>Friday</b>	Differentiated learning and Social Constructivism		Free	
<b>Monday</b>	Idea-based Social constructivism: an explanation		Further discussions and practical examples	to be selected
<b>Tuesday</b>	Cognitive tools approach: an explanation		Further discussions and practical examples	to be selected
<b>Wednesday</b>	Pragmatic / emergent approach: an explanation		Further discussions and practical examples	to be selected
<b>Thursday</b>	Social Constructivist instructional models presented		Further discussions and practical examples	to be selected
<b>Friday</b>	Integrating Social Constructivism into the mainstream	Course feedback.	Free	