BRAIN AND LANGUAGE
LIN 4790-122C
SYLLABUS - FALL Semester 2014

Classroom & time:       Tuesday 2+3rd periods, AND 19 (8:30-10:25am)
                         Thursday 3rd period, AND 19 (9:35-10:25am)

Instructor:  Dr. Edith Kaan
              Office: 4127 Turlington Hall.
              Office Hours: Tuesday 1:55-3:50pm; Thursday 1:55-2:45pm,
                              and by appointment
              E-mail: kaan@ufl.edu; Phone: 352 294 7453.

Course description:
In this course, major issues and terminology in brain and language research will be introduced. Topics addressed include: brain imaging techniques, ERPs, lesion studies, auditory perception, categorization in the brain, localizationist versus generalist approaches, symbolist versus connectionist approaches, modularity, innateness, critical period, lateralization, plasticity, hemispheric differences. Students will be familiarized with important controversies related to these issues, and will learn to evaluate data from brain imaging research. In laboratory sessions and assignments, students will have the opportunity to focus in on a particular topic.

Objectives:
• To learn about central issues and terminology in brain and language research
• To learn to evaluate data from neurolinguistic and brain imaging studies
• To improve team work, written and oral presentation skills

Prerequisite:  LIN3010 or SPA4004

Course website:
• Course materials (reading, lecture notes, syllabus, etc) and exercises will be made available on the Sakai course website on E-learning (https://lss.at.ufl.edu/). You’ll find the syllabus as well as some of the readings, and any handouts or other relevant materials. Deadlines and grades will also be posted on the website. You are responsible for checking the site regularly and for letting the instructor know promptly if anything is unclear, or if your grade has been entered incorrectly.

Course readings:
• Readings available on-line (through UFlib): (note: subject to change!)

Assignments, tests and grading:

- **Teams and peer-evaluation:** This course is partly based on team-based learning. Teams will be formed by the instructor in the second week of class and cannot be changed. Team mates are requested to submit a peer-evaluation after the first five weeks of the semester, and at the end of the semester. These evaluations focus on how well the team mate is contributing to the team’s learning. Results of the evaluations will be made available to the individual students, with the evaluators’ names removed.

- **Individual Readiness Assessment Tests:** In order to encourage students to prepare for team-based assignments and other in-depth exercises, we will have regular, short, multiple choice tests that test materials dealt with in the textbook and, if applicable, the introductory lectures on the topic. These tests are non-cumulative and will need to be completed individually.

- **Group-based Assessment Tests:** Directly after completing and handing in the individual test, students will complete the same test as a team. Direct feedback will be provided. Scores can be appealed by email within 24 hours. This process will be demonstrated in the second week of class.

- **Individual assignments:** Homework, and some of the assignments made in class will be graded individually. Homework need to be handed in (by default on-line) before the start of the class period.

- **Group assignments:** Group-based assignments can either be exercises done in class, class discussions, or short presentations on a pre-determined topic.

- **Mid-term and Final exam:** The mid-term and final exams will test material covered in the lectures, assignments and course readings. The final exam is non-cumulative, although terminology and basic knowledge dealt with in the first half of the semester is assumed. The mid-term and final exams will consist of short multiple-choice or open-answer questions, and at least one essay question in which you will be asked to apply your knowledge to a new situation. Tests should always be submitted individually.

- **Participation in LIN/SLSH experiments.** *Before November 18!* To encourage awareness of different aspects of experimental research in language-related fields, you are required to participate in 2 hours of language or communication research during the semester. A list of experiments that qualify for this credit can be found at [http://slhs.phhp.ufl.edu/student-info/participant-pool-2/](http://slhs.phhp.ufl.edu/student-info/participant-pool-2/). This site will be updated throughout the semester. Please retain a copy of the IRB form as proof that you participated. You need to have participated in 2 hours of experiments before November 18, 2014 for you to receive credit. This assignment will be worth 2% of your course grade. If you choose not to participate or do not qualify for any of the studies, you can receive the same amount of course credit for reading a short research article and writing a 2 page synopsis. This article needs to cover a brain and language topic, and cannot be one of the articles used for your final poster/paper assignment. This paper must be turned in no later than November 18, 2014. If
you are currently enrolled in other classes that require participation in experiments, and your total participation requirement exceeds 4 hours this semester, please see the instructor.

**Overall grade.** The weighting of the various requirements in the final grade is

- **Individual performance**
  - Individual readiness assessment tests: 18%
  - Individual assignments: 10%
  - Midterm: 20%
  - Final exam: 20%
  - Participation in LIN/SLHS experiments: 2%

- **Team-based performance**
  - Team-based tests and assignments: 20%

- **Team contribution**
  - Peer evaluation: 10% (5+5%)

The course grading scale is:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>87-89.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-83.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>77-79.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-73.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>67-69.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-63.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>57-59.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>84-86.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>74-76.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>64-66.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>&lt;= 56</td>
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For UF grading policies for assigning grade points, see: [https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx)

**Policies:**

- Texting, emailing, web browsing, face-booking, chatting and other cell phone or computer activity is not allowed during class unless this is part of the course assignments.
- Students are required to hand in all assignments before the beginning of the class period they are due. Please contact the instructor in advance if you need to skip a class, or cannot make a deadline and provide a documented excuse. Please also make sure you have at least one external backup of the assignments you make for this class. Computer problems will not be considered a valid excuse for missing assignments and other deadlines.
- There will be no make-up tests, make-up assignments, or extensions of deadlines without a documented medical or academic excuse. Please contact the instructor as soon as possible to make up for a missed individual test or exam. You cannot make up for missed team-based tests or assignments; in this case, the missed team-based assignment will be dropped from the calculation of your total grade after a make-up assignment. If you do not hand in the make-up assignment, your grade for the team test or assignment will be replaced by a “0”.

**Teamwork and academic honesty:**

Individual tests and assignments should be submitted individually. Although students are encouraged to discuss course-related issues outside of class, this should not be confused with writing up the results of a classmate's work, letting a classmate copy your work, or having a classmate check your work – this is unacceptable. See the University of Florida Honor Code and the academic honesty guidelines at [https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/1213/advising/info/student-honor-code.aspx](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/1213/advising/info/student-honor-code.aspx).
Accommodations for students with disabilities:
Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office: http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. The Disability Resource Center is located in 001 Building 0020 (Reid Hall). Their phone number is 392-8565. Please let the instructor know by the first week of class whether you need extra time on tests, so arrangements can be made in time for the first test.

Schedule:
The following schedule is an estimate of the course’s progress, with readings for the given week and approximate dates of the tests. The instructor will let you know when the tests and assignment deadlines are exactly as they approach, and will keep you updated if we go off track. Please also regularly consult the schedule on the course website on e-learning for updates.