

**PSYCHOLINGUISTICS**  
**LIN 4701- 13893**  
**SYLLABUS - Spring Semester 2023**

**Classroom & time:** MWF 3<sup>rd</sup> period, MAT108 (9:35 - 10:25 am)

**Instructor:** Dr. Edith Kaan  
Office: 4127 Turlington Hall.  
E-mail: [kaan@ufl.edu](mailto:kaan@ufl.edu); Phone: 352 294 7453 (leave a message).

**Office Hours (in TUR 4127):** M 11:45am-12:35pm, and by appointment.

**Course rationale and objectives**

The ability to use language is considered unique to humans. In many ways, our ability for language is surprisingly robust – it can survive even when other cognitive abilities fail, and develop in children even with poor language input. However, it can also be quite fragile – even a small stroke (in the wrong place) can severely impair language function, and several developmental disorders negatively affect language ability. Language is a very important aspect of our daily lives. It is the primary way in which we are able to communicate very complex, multi-dimensional ideas and make them fit into a string of sounds that unfold over time. How do we accomplish this feat? How do we convey our thoughts in this way? How are we able to take a string of sounds and getting meaning from them? How did we develop this ability? What happens in people who fail to acquire this ability, or lose it due to injury? Psycholinguistics concerns itself with all of these questions and more. At the end of this course you should be able to *critically* read popular media reporting of language research as well as feel confident reading about and discussing many issues that are relevant in child development, second language learning, linguistics, and psychology.

This course is intended as an introduction to the field of psycholinguistics, as such it will cover the following topics:

- Introduction to basic linguistic principles and psychological mechanisms
- Speech perception (processing language sounds)
- The lexicon (processing words)
- Sentence and discourse processing (putting words together)
- Language production, dialogue and conversation
- Child language acquisition, Bilingualism and second language acquisition
- Biological foundation of language (language and the brain)
- Language, culture and cognition

**Prerequisite:** LIN3010

**Course website:**

- elearning.ufl.edu
- Course materials (lecture notes, syllabus, etc.) and exercises will be made available on the course website on E-learning (elearning.ufl.edu). **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 reading:**

- **Required:** Sedivy, J. (2014) *Language in Mind: An Introduction to Psycholinguistics*. Sinauer Associates.
- Supplementary materials available at: <http://sites.sinauer.com/languageinmind/#>

**Assessment:**

**% of course grade**

- |                                  |                |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| • Homework assignments           | 30% (6% each)  |
| • Tests                          | 36% (18% each) |
| • Research projects              | 30% (15% each) |
| • Class participation/Activities | 4%             |

The course **grading** scale is:

92-100 = A    89-91.9 = A-    86-88.9 = B+    82-85.9 = B  
 79-81.9 = B-    76-78.9 = C+    72-75.9 = C    69-71.9 = C-  
 66-68.9 = D+    62-65.9 = D    58-61.9 = D-    Below 58 = E

For UF grading policies for assigning grade points, see:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

**Details of assessments**

**Homework Assignments:** Homework assignments will be made available on the course website a week before they are due, and need to be turned in on the website by 10:40 am on the day they are due, unless indicated otherwise.

**Tests:** There will be two in-class, closed-book exams that will cover material from the lectures and assigned readings. Exams will consist of a mix of different question types.

**In-class Activities:** Some in-class activities will require a little bit of prior preparation. In these cases, students will be asked to submit a paper copy of this preparation. Activity participation will be scored on a check system, not graded. Most will receive a ✓ to

acknowledge completed work, however a  $\checkmark+$  or  $\checkmark-$  may be given when a student has either done an exceptional job or is lacking in some effort.

**Research Project Assignment:** Each student complete **two** research projects by the appropriate due dates. All instructions and materials for these projects will be provided on the course website and discussed in class.

**Optional Research Bonus Assignment:** Students who wish to may increase their total grade points by 2 (out of 100) by participating in 2 hours of participation in psycholinguistic experiments through the LIN-SLHS participant pool. **Deadline is April 12.** A list of experiments can be found at : <https://slhs.php.ufl.edu/category/participant-pool/>. This site will be updated throughout the semester. Please retain the IRB form with the original signature from the experimenter (no photocopies) as proof that you participated. Experiments that you have previously participated in, experiments that you count towards other classes, or experiments you were paid to participate in *cannot* count toward this. If you choose not to participate or do not qualify for any of the studies, you can receive the same amount of course credit by means of an alternative assignment. This involves writing a synopsis of a short research article, video, or a podcast. Details will be made available on the course website.

### **Cellphone Policy, Attendance Policy, Class Expectations, and Make-Up Policy**

- Cell-phone use is not allowed during class unless this is part of the course assignments. If you are using a laptop in class, only use it to take notes and for in-class assignments.
- Students are required to hand in all assignments and tests before the class period they are due. Please contact the instructor in advance if you need to skip a class, or cannot make a deadline.
- Attendance is mandatory. If you are absent or more than 15 minutes late for more than two classes, you will get a warning. If absences persist the instructor can prohibit further attendance and assign a failing grade for excessive absences.
- Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: [catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/](http://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/)
- Students are encouraged to employ critical thinking and to rely on data and verifiable sources to interrogate all assigned readings and subject matter in this course as a way of determining whether they agree with their classmates and/or their instructor. No lesson is intended to espouse, promote, advance, inculcate, or compel a particular feeling, perception, viewpoint or belief.

### **Students Requiring Accommodation**

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (<https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation

letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

### **Course Evaluation**

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

### **University Honesty Policy**

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor in this class.

### **Software Use**

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

### **Student Privacy**

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see: <http://registrar.ufl.edu/catalog0910/policies/regulationferpa.html>

## **Recording**

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

## **Covid-19 policies**

In response to COVID-19, the following recommendations are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

- If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit [one.ufl.edu](https://one.ufl.edu) for screening / testing and vaccination opportunities.
- If you are sick, stay home. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 to be evaluated.
- Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work.

## Campus Resources:

### Health and Wellness

**U Matter, We Care:**  
If you or a friend is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

**Counseling and Wellness Center:** <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc>, and 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

**Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)**  
Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

**University Police Department** at 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>.

### Academic Resources

**E-learning technical support**, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to [Learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu). <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

**Career Resource Center**, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <https://www.crc.ufl.edu/>.

**Library Support**, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

**Teaching Center**, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>.

**Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall**, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>.

**Student Complaints Campus:**  
[https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF\\_Complaints\\_policy.pdf](https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf).

**On-Line Students Complaints:** <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process>.

## Schedule

The schedule below 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 regularly consult the schedule on the course website for updates.***

Week	Dates	Topic	Assignment(s)
1	Jan 9 Jan 11 Jan 13	Introduction	Chapter 1
2	<del>Jan 16</del> Jan 18 Jan 20	Methods Origins	Chapter 2
3	Jan 23		

	Jan 25 Jan 27	Language and brain	Chapter 3
4	Jan 30 Feb 1 Feb 3	Acquisition: sounds Acquisition: words	Chapter 4 HW 1 due Chapter 5
5	Feb 6 Feb 8 Feb 10	Acquisition: structures	Chapter 6
6	Feb 13 Feb 15 Feb 17	Speech perception	Chapter 7 HW2 due Research project 1 due
7	Feb 20 Feb 22 Feb 24	Recognizing words	Chapter 8
8	Feb 27 Mar 1 Mar 3	Q&A Test 1	HW3 due Test 1
9	Mar 6 Mar 8 (Mar 10)	Sentence processing (no class Mar 10)	Chapter 9
10	<del>Mar 13</del> <del>Mar 15</del> <del>Mar 17</del>	SPRING BREAK	
11	Mar 20 Mar 22 Mar 24	Sentence production	Chapter 10
12	Mar 27 Mar 29 Mar 31	Discourse	Chapter 11 HW 4 due
13	Apr 3 Apr 5 Apr 7	Dialogue	Chapter 12
14	April 10 April 12 April 14	Cross-linguistic effects	Chapter 13 HW5 due
15	April 17 April 19 April 21	Language, Culture and Cognition	Research project 2 due
16	April 24 April 26	Q&A, Wrap up Test 2	Test 2