

PSYCHOLINGUISTICS
LIN 4790-122C
SYLLABUS - Spring Semester 2017

Classroom & time: MWF 4th period, AND 19 (10:40-11:30 am)

Instructor: Dr. Edith Kaan
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Office Hours (in TUR 4127): Chun: Monday: 11:45 am-12:35 pm, and by appointment.
Kaan: Wednesday 11:45 am-1:40 pm, 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	25% (5% each)
• Tests	50% (25% each)
• Research projects	20% (10% each)
• Class participation/Activities	5%

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 ✓+ or ✓- 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** small-scale 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. A list of experiments can be found at: <http://slhs.php.ufl.edu/student-info/participant-pool-2>. 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.

Miscellaneous

Policy on working together: You are welcome to work together on homework assignments and the fieldwork project, but you should write up your answers independently from each other. No collaboration of any kind is allowed on any test. Remember you are bound by the UF honor pledge: “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty 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.*” It is expected that all students will adhere to the full Honor code and academic honesty guidelines available at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/student-honor-code.aspx>

Late Policy: 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: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

- 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.
- There will be no make-up exams, make-up assignments or extensions of deadlines without a documented medical or academic excuse.
- If you miss *more than 15 minutes of more than three class periods* without a documented medical or academic excuse, one point will be deducted from your final score for each additional time you are absent, leave early, or come late.

Cell phone and computer policy: Texting and other cell phone or computer activity is not allowed during class unless this is course-related (note-taking, assignments).

Respect for others: Students are expected to behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be held at minimum, if at all.

Accommodations for students with disabilities: Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) 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.

Health and Wellness: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352-392-1575 so that a U Matter We Care team member can reach out to the student in distress. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

Course evaluations: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

Schedule

The following schedule (page 5) 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 4 Jan 6	Introduction	Chapter 1
2	Jan 9 Jan 11 Jan 13	Methods Origins	Chapter 2
3	Jan 16 Jan 18 Jan 20	NO CLASS Language and brain	Chapter 3 HW 1
4	Jan 23 Jan 25 Jan 27	Acquisition: sounds Acquisition: words	Chapter 4 Chapter 5
5	Jan 30 Feb 1 Feb 3	Acquisition: structures Recognizing words	Chapter 6 HW 2 Chapter 7
6	Feb 6 Feb 8 Feb 10	Sentence processing	Chapter 8 Research project 1 due
7	Feb 13 Feb 15 Feb 17	Sentence processing	HW 3
8	Feb 20 Feb 22 Feb 24	Q&A Test 1	Test 1
9	Feb 27 Mar 1 Mar 3	Sentence production	Chapter 9
10		SPRING BREAK	
11	Mar 13 Mar 15 Mar 17	Sentence production	HW 4
12	Mar 20 Mar 22 Mar 24	Discourse	Chapter 10
13	Mar 27 Mar 29 Mar 31	Dialogue	Chapter 11 HW 5
14	April 3 April 5 April 7	Cross-ling Lang, Culture and Cognition	Chapter 12
15	April 10 April 12 April 14	Bilingualism	Reading TBA Research project 2 due
16	April 17 April 19	Q&A, Wrap up Test 2	Test 2