

LIN 4701: Psycholinguistics

Spring 2014, Section 3760

Class Meeting Times and Places

Tuesday – Period 4 (10:40 – 11:30) in Anderson Hall 21

Thursday – Periods 4-5 (10:40- 12:35) in Anderson Hall 21

Professor

Dr. Wind Cowles

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Office Hours:

Mondays 1 – 4pm

Thursdays 2 – 4pm

Website: <http://lss.at.ufl.edu> (Sakai)

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

Course Requirements and Policies

You should plan to spend 2-3 hours of outside time per hour spent in class. All students are responsible for attending all classes, taking all examinations at the scheduled times, and turning in all assignments on time.

Exams

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.

Homework Assignments

Homework assignments will be made available on Sakai a week before they are due, and need to be turned in via Sakai. They are due by 5pm on the day that they are listed in the schedule below.

In-class Activities

There will be in-class activities, including those that 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 Requirement

Each student must fulfill a research requirement by either:

(A) Completing **two** research projects by the appropriate due dates,
OR

(B) Completing **one** research project by the appropriate due date and participating in 2 hours or 2 separate 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. Experiments that you have previously participated in, or were paid to participate in *cannot* count toward this requirement. After participating in the experiment(s), you will need to write a short paper that describes the methods and goals of one of the studies. (You may have to discuss the experiment with the experimenter in order to complete this!) **This is due on the same day that the research project is due.** Include a copy of the consent form with your write-up when you turn it in.

Grades

Here is a breakdown of each of the requirements and their contribution to the final grade:

Midterm:	25%	Homework Assignments:	20%
Final:	25%	Research Requirement:	15%
		Class Participation/Activities:	15%

Grades will be assigned based on the following distribution:

	91-100	A	88-90.9	A-	
85-87.9	B+	81-84.9	B	78-80.9	B-
75-77.9	C+	71-74.9	C	68-70.9	C-
65-67.9	D+	61-64.9	D	58-60.9	D- (Below 58 = E)

Please note that a grade of C- is *not* a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, or College Basic distribution credit. For further information on UF's Grading Policy, see:

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

<http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html>

Readings

The textbook for the course is:

Carroll, David (2007). *Psychology of Language*. Wadsworth/Thomson Learning, Inc.

In addition, selected chapters from Cowles, H. Wind (2011) *Psycholinguistics 101*. Springer. will be available on Sakai.

Students with Special Needs

Students requesting accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to me when requesting accommodation.

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. An academic honesty offence is defined as the act of lying, cheating, or stealing information so that one gains academic advantage. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the Honor Code is bound by honor to take corrective action. 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. For more information, refer to: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/honorcode.php>.

Make-up Policy

In accordance with UF policy, students will be allowed to make up work that they miss as the result of an excused absence. For absences that can be foreseen (e.g. religious observance, UF-related travel), students MUST inform me about the absence in advance so that arrangements can be made. For unexpected absences (e.g. illness), students should contact me as soon as reasonably possible.

(See <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx> for a list of excusable absences.)

Course Outline (subject to change)

Week	Date	Topic	Assignment(s)
1	Jan. 7	The Big Picture	Reading: Chapters 1 & 2
	Jan. 9	Methods in Psycholinguistics	Reading: Chapter 3 Reading: How we know what we know (See Sakai)
2	Jan. 14	Speech Perception	Homework 1 due Reading: Chapter 4
	Jan. 16	Speech Perception	
3	Jan. 21	Written (vs. Spoken) Language	
	Jan. 23	The Lexicon	Reading: Chapter 5
4	Jan. 28	The Lexicon	
	Jan. 30	The Lexicon	Homework 2 due
5	Feb. 4	Sentence Processing	Reading: Chapter 6
	Feb. 6	Sentence Processing	
6	Feb. 11	Sentence Processing	Reading: How Good is Good Enough? (see Sakai) Homework 3 due
	Feb. 13	Sentence Processing	Research Project 1 due
7	Feb. 18	Discourse Processing	Reading: Chapter 7
	Feb. 20	Discourse Processing	Reading: Language in the Real World: Coreference (see Sakai)
8	Feb. 25	Midterm Review	
	Feb. 27	MIDTERM EXAM	
9	Spring break		
10	Mar. 11	Language Production	Reading: Chapter 8
	Mar. 13	Language Production	Homework 4 due
11	Mar. 18	Dialogue and Conversation	Reading: Chapter 9 Reading: Language in the Real World: Dialogue (see Sakai)

Week	Date	Topic	Assignment(s)
	Mar. 20	Child Language Acquisition	Reading: Chapters 10 & 12
12	Mar. 25	Child Language Acquisition	
	Mar. 27	Child Language Acquisition	Reading: Chapter 11 (pp. 283-310)
13	Apr. 1	Brain and Language	Reading: Chapter 13
	Apr. 3	Brain and Language	Homework 5
14	Apr. 8	Bilingual representations	Reading: Multiple Language Representation (see Sakai)
	Apr. 10	Bilingual representations	Reading: Chapter 11 (pp. 310-322)
15	Apr. 15	Sign Languages	Reading: Using your hands (see Sakai)
	Apr. 17	Language, Culture and Cognition	Reading: Chapter 14 Research Project 2 due
16	Apr. 22	Final Review and Wrap Up	

FINAL EXAM: April 28th, 5:30-7:30pm