

LING/PSYC 467
Experimental Psycholinguistics
Fall 2016

Instructor:	Dr. Jennifer Mah	Lecture Location:	SH 274
Phone:	(403)220-6986	Lecture Days/Time:	MWF 9 – 9:50
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Office Hours:	F 10 – 11, or by appointment		

Course Description

Exploration of the cognitive, neuropsychological, and social processes that underlie language abilities, with reference to linguistic theory. A laboratory component provides experience with methodologies used to study language behaviour.

Course Learning Outcomes

The Department of Psychology is committed to student knowledge and skill development. The table below lists the key learning outcomes for this course, the program-learning outcomes they facilitate (see psyc.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/program-learning-outcomes), and the expected level of achievement.

Course Learning Outcomes	PLO(s)	Level(s)
Identify the dominant research questions, theoretical frameworks, and debates in contemporary psycholinguistic research	1	C
Conduct simple psycholinguistic experiments drawing on a variety of experimental techniques to test a specific hypothesis and write a summary and analysis of the results	3, 2	C, A
Draw on the course material to hold informal, intelligent discussions on the predictions and implications of various psycholinguistic theories	2, 7	A, I
Identify key evidence that would support one theory over another	2, 3	A, C
Summarize and evaluate journal articles, and propose plausible related questions for future study	2, 5	A, C
Make novel connections among the sub-domains of psycholinguistics by applying findings and experimental techniques from one area to another area in which they are potentially informative	10, 3	C, C
Write a well-motivated and plausible research proposal that is grounded in a brief literature review and proposes a novel experiment to test a clearly-defined hypothesis	2, 5	A, C
Use psycholinguistic theories and results to generate novel insights about practical problems related to language learning or language use	10	C

Notes. PLOs = Program-Learning Outcomes: 1 = demonstrate knowledge of psychological sciences, 2 = think critically and solve problems, 3 = conduct research and analyze data, 4 = communicate effectively, 5 = demonstrate

information literacy, 6 = understand and implement ethical principles, 7 = apply psychological knowledge and skills. Level of PLO achievement facilitated by this course: I = introductory, C = competency, A = advanced.

Prerequisites

LING 201, or PSYC 312 and admission to the Psychology Major or Honours program

Required Text (available at the Bookstore)

Sedivy, J. (2014) *Language in Mind: An Introduction to Psycholinguistics*. Sinauer Associates.
ISBN: 978-0-87893-598-7.

A number of research publications will be assigned throughout the semester. These can be accessed online using the University of Calgary Library's website; in cases where the article is not available through the library, it will be posted on the course D2L website.

Evaluation

Written summaries	20%	(4, see Course Schedule for due dates)
Discussion questions	15%	(weekly; see Course Schedule)
Final Research Proposal	25%	due December 14, 2016
Lab	40%	(weekly; see Course Schedule)

There will be no final exam for this course.

Written summaries: students will prepare a short summary (3 – 5 pages long) of the assigned research publication, summarizing the problem being investigated, the research hypothesis, the experimental methodology used, the results, and the researchers' conclusions, including some critique of the analysis.

Discussion questions: students will prepare a list of 6 discussion points for each assigned research publication, in the form of pros and cons.

Final Research Proposal: students will develop a potential research project, including identification of a problem, review of previous research, development of a hypothesis for investigating, and development of an experimental task. The proposal will include written presentation of these, in addition to some sample stimulus items that would be used in the task, and is expected to be approximately 8 – 10 pages long.

Lab: For each lab session, students will carry out an informal experimental task (or observe recordings of a task) and then prepare a brief written assignment that describes the research question, the task carried out, the results, and their interpretation of the results (1 – 2 pages).

*All written assignments may be submitted by email before 11:59 PM on the due date. Paper copies may also be submitted in class on the due date. **No late submissions will be accepted.** For the Final Research Proposal, paper copies may be submitted to the main office of the School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures, and Cultures (CHC 205) before 4:30 PM on the due date.*

Students must achieve a passing grade on both the class and lab components to pass this course.

No bonus credit will be allowed in this course.

Department of Psychology Grade Distribution Policy

The distribution of grades in Psychology courses (the percentage of A grades, B grades, etc.) will be similar to the distribution of grades in other courses in the Faculty of Arts. The Department monitors the grade distributions of 200-, 300-, and 400-level courses in the Faculty to ensure that the grade distributions in Psychology courses are comparable. Based on these reviews, students can expect that 1) up to 30% of grades in 200- and 300-level psychology courses will be “A” grades (A+, A, and A-), and 2) up to 40% of grades 400-level psychology courses will be “A” grades.

Department of Psychology Criteria for Letter Grades

Psychology professors use the following criteria when assigning letter grades:

A+ grade: *Exceptional Performance.* An A+ grade indicates near perfect performance on multiple choice and short answer exams. For research papers/essays/course projects/presentations, an A+ grade is awarded for exceptional work deserving of special recognition and is therefore not a common grade.

A, A- Range: *Excellent Performance.* Superior understanding of course material. Written work is very strong in terms of critical and original thinking, content, organization, and the expression of ideas, and demonstrates student’s thorough knowledge of subject matter.

B Range: *Good Performance.* Above average understanding of course material. Written work shows evidence of critical thinking and attention to organization and editing but could be improved in form and/or content.

C Range: *Satisfactory Performance.* Adequate understanding of course material. Knowledge of basic concepts and terminology is demonstrated. Written work is satisfactory and meets essential requirements but could be improved significantly in form and content. Note: All prerequisites for courses offered by the Faculty of Arts must be met with a minimum grade of C-.

D range: *Marginally meets standards.* Minimal understanding of subject matter. Written work is marginally acceptable and meets basic requirements but requires substantial improvements in form and content. Student has not mastered course material at a level sufficient for advancement into more senior courses in the same or related subjects.

F grade: *Course standards not met.* Inadequate understanding of subject matter. Written work does not meet basic requirements. Student has not demonstrated knowledge of course material at a level sufficient for course credit.

Grading Scale

A+	96-100%	B+	80-84%	C+	67-71%	D+	54-58%
A	90-95%	B	76-79%	C	63-66%	D	50-53%
A-	85-89%	B-	72-75%	C-	59-62%	F	0-49%

As stated in the University Calendar, it is at the instructor’s discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between two letter grades.

To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (e.g., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90% = A but 89.4% will be rounded down to 89% = A-).

Tentative Lecture Schedule

Ideally in table format with date of class, topics to be covered, and chapters/readings to be read. Due dates for tests/exams and assignments should be included in this schedule as well.

Date	Topic/Activity/Readings/Due Date (revise and add columns & rows as necessary)
M Sep12	Lecture begins – Course introduction and overview.
W Sep 14	Introduction to language science. (Sedivy, Ch. 1)
F Sep 16	
M Sep 19	Origins of language. (Sedivy, Ch. 2)
W Sep 21	
F Sep 23	Discussion: Savage-Rumbaugh et al. (1980), Senghas et al. (2004) Last day to drop full courses (Multi-term) and Fall Term half courses. No refunds for full courses (Multi-term) or Fall Term half courses after this date.
M Sep 26	Brain and language. (Sedivy, Ch. 3) Last day to add or swap full courses (Multi-term) and Fall Term half courses. Last day for change of registration from audit to credit or credit to audit.
W Sep 28	Brain and language. (Sedivy, Ch. 3)
F Sep 30	Discussion: Emmorey et al. (2011), Hickok et al. (2002) Fee payment deadline for Fall Term full and half courses.
M Oct 3	Language acquisition: making sense of sound (Sedivy, Ch. 4) Written summary of Jentschke et al. (2008) due
W Oct 5	Language acquisition: making sense of sound (Sedivy, Ch. 4)
F Oct 7	
M Oct 10	Thanksgiving Day, University closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.
W Oct 12	Learning the meanings of words (Sedivy, Ch. 5)
F Oct 14	Discussion: Fennel & Waxman (2010), Pilley & Reid (2011)
M Oct 17	Learning sentence structure and meaning (Sedivy, Ch. 6) Written summary of Koenig & Woodward (2010) due
W Oct 19	Learning sentence structure and meaning (Sedivy, Ch. 6)
F Oct 21	Discussion: Pullum & Scholz (2002), Lidz et al. (2003), Akhtar et al. (2004)
M Oct 24	Word recognition (Sedivy, Ch. 7)
W Oct 26	
F Oct 28	Discussion: Magnuson et al. (2008), Dikker & Pylkkänen (2013)
M Oct 31	Understanding sentences (Sedivy, Ch. 8) Written summary of Kovic et al. (2010) due
W Nov 2	Understanding sentences (Sedivy, Ch. 8)
F Nov 4	Discussion: Novick et al. (2005), Chrysikou et al. (2011)
M Nov 7	Language production (Sedivy, Ch. 9)
W Nov 9	No class
Nov 10--13	Reading Days. No lectures.
F Nov 11	Remembrance Day (Observed). University Closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.

M Nov 14	Language production (Sedivy, Ch. 9)
W Nov 16	
F Nov 18	Discussion: Dell et al. (2000), Slevc (2011)
M Nov 21	Discourse processing (Sedivy, Ch. 10) Written summary of Myachykov et al. (2013) due
W Nov 23	Discourse processing (Sedivy, Ch. 10)
F Nov 25	Discussion: Sanford & Sturt (2002), Rapp & Gerrig (2006)
M Nov 28	Social underpinnings of language (Sedivy, Ch. 11) Written summary of Hannon & Daneman (2004) due
W Nov 30	Social underpinnings of language (Sedivy, Ch. 11)
F Dec 2	Discussion: Wu & Keysar (2007), Duran et al. (2011)
M Dec 5	Psycholinguistics across languages (Sedivy, Ch. 12)
W Dec 7	
F Dec 9	Discussion: Bialystok & Viswanathan (2009), Mah et al. (2006) Fall Term Lectures End. Last day to withdraw with permission from Fall Term half courses.
Dec 12-22	Fall Term Exam Period. NB: December 14, 2016: Final Research Proposal due

Reappraisal of Grades

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (e.g., term paper, essay, test) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within 15 days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class; no reappraisal of term work is permitted after the 15 days. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next 15 days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same. If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within 15 days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct.

Academic Accommodation

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services ; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available

at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf.

Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of this course.

Absence From A Test/Exam

Makeup tests/exams are **NOT** an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test/exam for health reasons; the student will be required to pay any cost associated with this Statement. Students who miss a test/exam have up to 48 hours to contact the instructor and to schedule a makeup test/exam. Students who do not schedule a makeup test/exam with the instructor within this 48-hour period forfeit the right to a makeup test/exam. At the instructor's discretion, a makeup test/exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled test/exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test/exam during exam make-up hours provided by the department <http://psychology.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/exam-and-course-information#mues>. If a student cannot write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred_final. Under no circumstances will this be accommodated by the department.

Travel During Exams

Consistent with University regulations, students are expected to be available to write scheduled exams at any time during the official December and April examination periods. Requests to write a make-up exam because of conflicting travel plans (e.g., flight bookings) will NOT be considered by the department. Students are advised to wait until the final examination schedule is posted before making any travel arrangements. If a student cannot write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred_final. Under no circumstances will this be accommodated by the department.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act

The FOIP legislation disallows the practice of having student's retrieve tests and assignments from a public place. Therefore, tests and assignments may be returned to students during class/lab, or during office hours, or will be made available only for viewing during exam review sessions scheduled by the Department. Tests and assignments will be shredded after one year. Instructors should take care to not link students' names with their grades, UCIDs, or other FOIP-sensitive information.

Evacuation Assembly Point

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

Student Organizations

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). They are located in Administration 130 and may be contacted at 403-220-5567.

Student Union VP Academic: Phone: 403-220-3911 suvpaca@ucalgary.ca

Student Union Faculty Rep.: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca

Student Ombudsman's Office

The Office of the Student Ombudsmen provides independent, impartial and confidential support for students who require assistance and advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. The office can be reached at 403-220-6420 or ombuds@ucalgary.ca (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>)

Safewalk

The safewalk program provides volunteers to walk students safely to their destination anywhere on campus. This service is free and available 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year.

Call 403-220-5333.

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **September 23, 2016**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **September 26, 2016**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **December 9, 2016**.