



Department of Psychology
Psychology 467 – Experimental Psycholinguistics
Winter 2010 – Course Outline

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|----------------------|--|---------------------------|-----------------|--------|--|
| Instructor: | Suzanne Curtin | Lecture Location: | A253 | | |
| Phone: | 220-7670 | Lecture Days/Time: | TR 14:00-15:15 | | |
| Email: | scurtin@ucalgary.ca | TA | Lee-Ann McKay | | |
| Office: | A260 | Lab 1 | W 17:00 - 18:50 | SS 018 | |
| Office Hours: | By appointment | Lab 2 | Th 9:00 - 10:50 | SS 018 | |

Course Description and Goals

Psycholinguistics is a broad field of research spanning from speech perception to sentence processing to language development to computer modeling. Throughout the course we will consider the relationship between theoretical linguistic concepts and constructs and psycholinguistic data. We will begin by discussing what language is, how it is organized, represented, and acquired, where it comes from, and what cognitive factors influence it. We will then investigate current and ongoing issues in psycholinguistics while examining the basic processes underlying the acquisition, production, and comprehension of spoken and written language. The lab component provides experience with experimental techniques used to study language behaviour.

Prerequisites

Psyc 312 – Experimental Design and Quantitative Methods for Psychology
Psyc 365 – Cognitive Psychology

Required Text

There is no textbook for this course. Rather, you are required to read articles related to the various topics. All articles will be made available on Blackboard.

Evaluation

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|------------------------------|--|
| Lecture Component: | 60% of overall grade |
| In class exams (2): | 20% (10% each) Mixed (e.g. multiple-choice, short answer, and fill-in-the-blank) based on lectures |
| Final Take-home Exam* | 25% Essay format based on lectures and readings |
| Article Summary (3)*: | 15% (5% each). 1 page each single spaced |
| Laboratory Component: | 40% of overall grade |
| • Projects | 5-7 page write-ups of student-conducted experiments (3 projects). 45% of lab grade. |
| • Homework | Brief (approximately 2 pages double spaced) lab reports (5 assignments). 40% of lab grade. |
| • Participation | Discussion questions, answered individually or in groups during lab (10 meetings). 15% of lab grade. |

Note: See lab outline for additional information.

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

***Final Exam Information:**

1. Handed out in class on Thursday, April 15th, 2010
2. **Due Thursday, April 22nd, 2010**
3. To be handed in into the Psychology Department Main Office **no later than noon.**
4. Emailed final exams will **not** be accepted.
5. Late final exams will **not** be accepted.

***Article Summary:**

You are required to turn in three typed 1-page (single-spaced) critical summaries for three of the articles read for class. No late summaries will be accepted.

Due Dates: Feb 2, Mar 18, Apr 6

Grading Scale

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|----|---------|----|--------|----|--------|----|--------|
| 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. In this course there will be no rounding up of final grades, especially in light of the opportunities students have to increase their final grade via research participation.

Tentative Lecture Schedule

Important notes regarding readings and lectures:

1. Assigned readings complement the material covered in lectures, and will not provide a substitute for attending lectures. If you miss a lecture, you are strongly encouraged to consult a student who was present to determine what was covered.
2. The reading/lecture schedule is tentative. If changes are made, an updated version will be provided on the course website.

Note: The instructor must approve any tape recordings of lectures.

| Date | Topic | Articles |
|------------------------|--|--|
| JAN 12-FEB 11 | WHAT IS LANGUAGE? | Summary 1 Due Feb 2 |
| | COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE, AND EVOLUTION | Terrace et al. (1979) Christiansen & Kirby (2003) |
| | WORDS AND WORD FORMATION | Hay & Baayen (2005) |
| | SYNTAX | Ben-Shachar et al. (2003) |
| | SEMANTICS | Löw et al. (2003) |
| | PHONETICS | Stevens (1980) |
| | PHONOLOGY | Kazanina et al. (2006) |
| | GESTURE | Willems & Hagoort (2007) |
| FEB 11 | EXAM 1 | |
| FEB 14-21 | READING WEEK | |
| FEB 23 – MAR 18 | ADULT PSYCHOLINGUISTICS | Summary 2 Due March 18 |

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|---------------------|---|--|
| SPOKEN LANGUAGE | | Note: Oct 12 – no class |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perception • Recognition • Processing • Production | Polka (1991) Vitevitch (2002) Altman (1998) Pickering & Branigan (1999) |
| WRITTEN LANGUAGE | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual word recognition • Reading & Dyslexia | Sereno & Rayner (2003) Zeigler & Goswami (2005) |
| MAR 23-APR 8 | LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT | Summary 3 Due April 6 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perception • Segmentation • Words • Phrases • Syntax • Gesture | Werker & Curtin (2005) Saffran et al. (1996); Jusczyk (1999) Fernald & Hurtado (2006) Gomez & Gerken (2000) Vasilyeva et al. (2008) Ozcaliskan & Goldin-Meadow (2005) |
| APR 8 | EXAM 2 | |
| APR 13-15 | ATYPICAL LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Williams Syndrome • Autism | Laing et al. (2002) Mitchell et al. (2006) |
| APRIL 14 | FINAL EXAM HANDED OUT | |
| | DUE APRIL 22ND BY NOON! | |

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. 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

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. 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 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.

Course Credits for Research Participation (Max 2% of final grade)

Students in most psychology courses are eligible to participate in Departmentally approved research and earn credits toward their final grades. **A maximum of two (2) credits (2%) per course, including this course, may be applied to the student's final grade. Students earn 0.5% (0.5 credits) for each full 30 minutes of participation.** The demand for timeslots may exceed the supply in a given term. Thus, students are not guaranteed that there will be enough studies available to them to meet their credit requirements. Students should seek studies early in the term and should frequently check for open timeslots. Students can create an account and participate in Departmentally approved research studies at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>. The last day to participate in studies and to assign or reassign earned credits to courses is **April 15, 2010**.

Student Organizations

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). They are located in Administration 170 and may be contacted at 220-5567.

Student Union VP Academic: Phone: 220-3911 suypaca@ucalgary.ca
Student Union Faculty Rep.: Phone: 220-3913 socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **Jan 22nd, 2010**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **Jan 26th, 2010**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Apr 16th, 2010**.