

JLP374H1F: Psychology of Language Syllabus

Fall 2015

Last updated: September 14, 2015

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to psycholinguistics. We will study language as a part of human cognition, asking questions about how language is produced and comprehended by our minds and brains. The course will cover topics in language production and comprehension, and further examine the relationship between language and other cognitive capacities, including memory and attention.

After taking this course, you should be able to:

- **Think** about language as a cognitive capacity, in terms of the representations and processes involved in producing and comprehending language.
- **Understand** what it means to have a model of a linguistic process, and why such models are useful.
- **Understand** some basic principles of experimental design in psycholinguistics.
- Begin to **read** and **interpret** primary research in the field (with guidance).

Instructor

Dr. Meg Grant (You can call me Meg)
Email: meg.grant@utoronto.ca
Office: Sidney Smith Hall, Room 4088
Office hours (subject to change): Mondays 3-5pm

Meeting time

Time: Wednesdays 6-9pm
Room: Lash Miller 161

Email policy

- If at all possible, please attend office hours with questions.
- Please email me from your mail.utoronto.ca email account with JLP374 in the subject line.
- I will reply to email inquiries within 2 weekdays.

Course website

- This course uses Blackboard. To access the lecture slides and other course-related documents, log in at <http://portal.utoronto.ca> with your UTORid and password.
- You should check Blackboard regularly for class-related announcements.

Course materials

- **Textbook:** Introduction to Psycholinguistics, Paul Warren, 2012. Available at the University of Toronto Bookstore.
- Additional readings are available through the U of T Library website.
 - Accessing additional readings is part of the assignments, so they will not be posted on Blackboard. If you need assistance with the library's online system, please contact a librarian to help you.

Evaluation scheme

- Blackboard activities (Graded for relevance and thoughtfulness):
 - Contribution to test practice question bank (QB): $2 \times 2.5\% = 5\%$
 - * Prior to the midterm and final exams, students must create one question (multiple choice or true-or-false + explanation) and post it to the discussion forum.
 - On-line experiment participation and response: $2 \times 2.5\% = 5\%$
 - * Links to two on-line experiments will be posted on Blackboard. Students must complete the experiment and input their secret code along with a 3-4 sentence reaction to the experience of participating in the experiment in their assignment submissions.
- Primary literature assignments (PLAs): $2 \times 15\% = 30\%$
 - For each PLA, students will read one assigned journal article in psycholinguistics. Assignment questions will require comprehension of the article and will require students to relate the article to what they have learned in lectures and course readings.
- Midterm exam: 25%
- Final exam: 35%

Late work policy

- **Blackboard activities:** No late work accepted. Please plan to submit your work with enough time to allow for tech troubleshooting.
- **PLAs:** No late work accepted. If appropriate documentation is provided **before** the assignment deadline, an extension **may** be granted.

Missed test policy

- See the Arts and Science missed test policy here: http://www.artsandscience.utoronto.ca/ofr/calendar/Rules_&_Regulations.html

University policies

- Please refer to the academic calendar (http://www.artsandscience.utoronto.ca/ofr/calendar/Sessional_Dates.html) for key dates pertaining to enrollment, etc.
- You are subject to the Code of Student Conduct (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/studentc.htm>).
- You are also subject to the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>). Violations such as plagiarism and other cheating will be handled in accordance with regulations.

Course Schedule (Subject to change)

| Week | Date | Topic | Due dates | Reading assignments |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | 16 Sept | Introduction | | Chapter 1 |
| 2 | 23 Sept | Planning in production | | Chapter 2 (Start reading for PLA 1) |
| 3 | 30 Sept | Word production | On-line Experiment 1 | Chapter 3,4 |
| 4 | 7 Oct | Monitoring and repair | PLA 1 due | Chapter 5 |
| 5 | 14 Oct | Perception for language | QB 1 contribution due | Chapter 7 |
| 6 | 21 Oct | Midterm exam, during class time | | |
| 7 | 28 Oct | Spoken word recognition | | Chapter 8 |
| 8 | 4 Nov | Visual word recognition | On-line Experiment 2 | Chapter 9 (Start reading for PLA 2) |
| | 8 Nov | Last day to drop courses | | |
| 9 | 11 Nov | Sentence processing: syntactic structure | | Chapter 10 |
| 10 | 18 Nov | Sentence processing: integration of information | PLA 2 due | Chapter 11 |
| 11 | 25 Nov | Sentence processing: relating parts of the sentence | | Chapter 12 |
| 12 | 2 Dec | Architecture of the language processing system, Wrap-up | QB 2 contribution due | Chapter 13 |
| Final Exam during exam period | | | | |