

LING 3220 – Psycholinguistics

Fall 2013, York University Linguistics
Mondays & Wednesdays 11:30am-1pm, ACE003

Instructor: Dr. Chandan Narayan
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Course URL: Moodle (moodle.yorku.ca) and TBA

Course description:

Psycholinguistics is the study of the mental processes involved in producing and comprehending language. The goal of this course is to introduce students to major research questions and findings in psycholinguistics, including speech perception, the mental lexicon, syntactic processing, pragmatics and conversation. The course will also introduce students to primary experimental research in the various subfields of psycholinguistics in the form of journal articles. The class meets twice a week and readings/lectures will be broken up accordingly, with textbook material discussed on day 1 and a journal article or articles on day 2.

Course prerequisites:

HH/PSYC 1010 6.00 or HH/PSYC 2410 6.00, with a minimum grade of C, or AP/LING 1000 6.00. Course credit exclusions: AK/AS/SC/PSYC 3190 3.00 (Prior to Fall/Winter 2007/2008), HH/PSYC 3190 3.00, AK/PSYC 3250 3.00 (prior Summer 2002) GL/PSYC 3640 3.00, GL/LIN 3640 3.00.

This class is predicated on your knowing some fundamental concepts in Linguistics and/or Psychology. Therefore, you must have all the prerequisite courses in order to take this class. Special exceptions are made on a case-by-case basis.

Evaluation

Your grade in the course will be determined by your performance on the following items:

- 10% Reading responses (5, 2% each)
- 30% Test 1 (Oct.2): Text chapters 1-4 and articles from weeks 1-3
- 30% Test 2 (Oct.28): Text chapters 5-7 and articles from weeks 4-7
- 30% Final Exam (Final Exam period): Text chapters 8-12 and articles from weeks 8-12

Course text and readings

You are responsible for readings from the following textbook:

Whitney, P. (1998) *The Psychology of Language*. (Wadsworth)

A copy will be kept on reserve at the York library. Additional readings will be made available via

pdf or URL.

Moodle

All lecture outlines, assignments, and other information will be posted on Moodle. Lectures will be posted the evening after the lecture. Check the website before class each week for any important information and to print out materials for that class. The lecture slides only provide some main points and are not really useful if you do not attend lecture.

Class structure

For the most part the topics discussed each week will follow closely the order of material presented in the textbook. Monday's lectures will strictly follow book material. Wednesday's lectures will cover book material as well as supplemental readings, mainly in the form of journal articles or research presented in popular media. Please check Moodle every week for these supplementary readings as you will be responsible for their content. Additionally, I'd ask that you forward me any interesting news stories related to language which you might come across. It is always nice to keep lectures and class content current with the zeitgeist.

Reading responses

Reading responses (RR) are comprised of two parts: 1) summarize the main point of the reading (journal article or other primary research), and 2) ask questions about aspects of the reading which are unclear. The responses are due at the **beginning of class on day 2 of the lecture week**. The assignment is considered late if it is not turned in during the first 10 minutes of the lecture. This Assignments are to be completed on your own (i.e., not in groups). It is understandable that you'll consult each other on assignments, but please submit your own work. Assignments which appear identical will be flagged for further review as a breach of academic integrity. If you are unable to submit an assignment, you can always submit it to me ahead of time. Please do not slide your assignment under my office door; if I am not in, submit it to DLLL mailroom manager, who will put it in my mailbox. Emailed assignments are not accepted. Reading responses are each worth 3 points. Simply turning something in will get you 1 point (✓-), a satisfactory response 2 points (✓); and a well-written, comprehensive summary and questions 3 points (✓+).

Email policy

If you cannot attend the scheduled office hour, contact me to arrange another time. I will do my best to answer your phone and email messages promptly. I do not, however, answer email (or phone calls) on the weekend. Please email me from your yorku.ca account and put 'LING3220' in the subject line. Emails sent from non-York accounts will be ignored. Please sign your emails; I will not reply to anonymous messages. My response to your email may be brief and may not come within 48 hours. Please be patient.

Tests

There will be three tests in this course, each covering a third of the total course material. The third test is technically the "final exam" and will be held during exam week as scheduled by the University. The tests will be mostly multiple-choice (scantron) with some possible short answer questions. You are responsible for all reading material (book chapters and journal articles) as well as anything that may be presented in lectures.

Missed tests

There will be no makeup tests. If you provide suitable documentation for missing a test, you will have the weight of the missed test added to the weight of the final exam. Tests missed without adequate documentation will be assigned a mark of zero.

Grading

York University uses a grading system detailed at:

<http://www.yorku.ca/laps/students/grading.html>.

Please familiarize yourself with it.

Academic Honesty & Integrity

York students are required to maintain high standards of academic integrity and are subject to the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty. Please review the documents available at the following website:

<http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=69>

Academic offenses are treated very seriously, and the disciplinary procedures are described there as well. Please consult the code if you have any question about the nature of academic offenses and their penalties.

Schedule

(N.B. This schedule is tentative and subject to change. Please check the course website for updates/changes.) Journal articles are hyperlinked in this pdf.

Week	Day 1	Day 2	Notes
1	Ch. 1: The nature of language	Fitch(2000)	–
2	Ch. 2: Phon/Syn/Sem	Chomsky (1959)	–
3	Ch. 3: Other cognitive processes	Neely (1977)	RR1 due
4	Ch. 4: Language/Thought	TEST 1	–
5	Ch. 5: Speech-Word recognition	Liberman and Mattingly (1985)	RR2 due
6	NO CLASS	Ch. 6 & Forster (1976)	–
7	Ch. 7: Sentence processing	Eberhard et al. (1995)	RR3 due
8	TEST 2	No class	–
9	Ch. 9: Language production	Dell (1995)	RR4 due
10	Ch. 10: Language acquisition	Werker & Tees (1984)	–
11	Ch. 11: Atypical environments	Senghas & Coppola (2001)	RR5 due
12	Ch. 12: Aphasia, methods	Binder (1997)	–

The Final Exam will be held during the university-scheduled exam week in December.