

LING 4389/5346
Topics in Linguistics/Applied Linguistics: Psycholinguistics
Fall 2011

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Office Hours: W 4:00PM-6:00PM (or by appointment)

Section Information: Course Number 86314/86315, Section 001

Time and Place of Class Meetings: Tuesday 5:30PM – 8:20PM, Trimble Hall 202

Description of Course Content: This course will introduce you to psycholinguistics, or the study of the cognitive processes involved in the acquisition, comprehension, and production of language. The class will focus mainly on language perception and production by native speakers, but will also address issues related to bilingual/second language processing. You will learn about major topics in these areas, read and report on primary literature related to these topics, gain hands-on experience in a number of different experimental methods, and design and run a small-scale psycholinguistics research project.

Student Learning Outcomes

After successfully completing this course, students should be able to:

- 1) Understand major topics in the field of psycholinguistics
- 2) Discuss and critique the primary literature on these topics
- 3) Develop testable psycholinguistic research questions based on this literature
- 4) Understand the experimental techniques used to investigate psycholinguistic questions
- 5) Create psycholinguistic experiments using DMDX
- 6) Design, run, and report on a psycholinguistic experiment

Requirements: For undergraduate (4389) students, LING 3311 *Introduction to Linguistic Science: Descriptive Linguistics* is a prerequisite. For graduate (5346) students, LING 5300 *Linguistic Analysis* is a prerequisite.

Required Textbook and Other Course Materials: The textbook listed below is necessary for this course. Most weeks you will complete a textbook reading in preparation for class discussion and activities. The book is available online as well as in the campus bookstore.

Fernandez, E.M., & Cairns, H.S. (2011). *Fundamentals of psycholinguistics*. West Sussex: Wiley-Blackwell. [ISBN# 9781405191470]

Additional materials will be posted on the Blackboard site (<https://elearn.uta.edu/webapps/login/>) for the course. You are responsible for checking this Blackboard site regularly to access (among other things) class notes, updates, assignments, and additional readings.

Descriptions of major assignments and examinations with due dates

Article Presentations (see below)

Experiment Project

Proposal 10/11

Presentation 12/6

Final Paper 12/13

***Written assignments should be uploaded to the Blackboard website for this course (as either .pdf or .doc/.ppt files). ***

(See below for detailed descriptions of these projects.)

Grading Policy

Your course grade will be determined as follows (A = 90% or above; B = 80-90%; C = 70-80%; D = 60-70%; F = below 60%):

Course engagement	20%	
Article Presentations	30%	2 presentations, 15% each
Experiment Project	50%	calculated from the following:
		Proposal 10%
		Presentation 15%
		Final Paper 25%

Undergraduate (4389) students can choose to have their grade calculated as follows:

Course engagement	30%	
Article Presentations	20%	1 presentation
Experiment Project	50%	calculated from the following:
		Proposal 10%
		Presentation 15%
		Final Paper 25%

Course engagement: Course engagement refers to regular on-time attendance, preparation for class, participation in discussion, and physical as well as mental presence in the classroom. More than one (unexcused) absence will negatively affect your grade.

Presentations: You will give two article presentations during the semester. Two presentations will be held each class from 9/20 until 11/22 (see the schedule below for exact dates). A sign-up sheet for presentation slots will be posted on the Blackboard site for this class. Please send me your preferences for presentation dates as soon as possible. For these presentations, you will select a research article related to the scheduled topic. The complete reference for your article (and preferably its pdf as well) should be emailed to me (at least) **one week prior to your presentation** for approval. (The article will be uploaded onto the course Blackboard site so that the entire class can access it.) Your presentation should be about 15 minutes long, followed by a short (~ five-minute) question-and-answer session. It should include the following information: (a) the complete bibliographical reference (in APA format), (b) the research question(s) examined in the article, (c) the design of the study and its specific hypotheses, (d) a summary of the methodological details (# of subjects, materials, procedures, etc.), (e) a summary of the results (including a discussion of what these results mean with respect to the research questions), and (f) your comments/critique. You should create PowerPoint slides and/or a handout to help the class understand your article. These slides/handouts should be uploaded onto the Blackboard site (for assessment and so that they can be made available to your classmates).

Experiment Project: For your final project, you will design, conduct, and report on a psycholinguistic experiment (with help from me and from your classmates!). These projects can be done individually, as pairs, or in small groups. Details about this project will be provided throughout the course. You will submit a **project proposal** on 10/11. This proposal (1-2 pages, single spaced) should include a short discussion of the motivation for the project (referencing key articles), your research questions, a sketch of the methods you will use to investigate these questions, and your hypotheses/predictions. If you would like to work together with one or more of your classmates on this project, please approve your plans with me at least two weeks before your project proposal is due (i.e., by 9/27). On the last day of class (12/6), you will **present your project** to your classmates. These presentations will follow the same format as the article presentations (see above), but this time, the presentation will be on your research. The **final paper** on your project will be due on 12/13. This paper should be 10-15 pages (double-spaced) long. Formatting details will be discussed in class and posted on the course Blackboard site.

Attendance Policy: See the *Course engagement* section above for specific information about how attendance influences your grade.

Schedule (subject to change)

Class	Date	Topic	Readings/Assignments
1	30-Aug	Introduction/Research Methods	F&C Appendix
2	6-Sep	Linguistics and Psycholinguistics	F&C Chapters 1 and 2
3	13-Sep	Creating Experiments: A DMDX crash course	Additional Readings (ARs) 1 and 2
4	20-Sep	Language and the Brain	F&C Chapter 3
5	27-Sep	Speech Perception	F&C Chapter 5 and 6 (153-186)
6	4-Oct	Lexical Access	F&C Chapter 6 (187-202)
7	11-Oct	Bilingual Lexical Access	AR 3; Project Proposal due
8	18-Oct	Sentence Processing	F&C Chapter 7
9	25-Oct	Referential and Discourse Processing	F&C Chapter 8 (246-250)
10	1-Nov	Bilingual Sentence Processing	AR 4
11	8-Nov	Working Memory and Sentence Processing	F&C Chapter 8 (235-246)
12	15-Nov	Speech Errors and Language Production Models	F&C Chapter 5 (134-153)
13	22-Nov	Language Production: Experimental Investigations	F&C Chapter 5 (134-153)
14	29-Nov	Review	
15	6-Dec	Final presentations	

****FINAL PAPER DUE 12/13****

University / Departmental Policies and Other Information

Drop Policy: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students**

will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. Contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships for more information.

Americans with Disabilities Act: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

As a student, your responsibility rests with informing the instructor in writing or email and providing the official documentation from the Office for Students with Disabilities no later than the end of the second week of classes.

Academic Integrity: At The University of Texas at Arlington, academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form, including but not limited to) "cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts" (UT System Regents' Rule 50101, §2.2). Suspected violations of academic integrity standards will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

While the Department of Linguistics and TESOL hopes to foster a sense of community in which students can enhance their educational experience by conferring with each other about the lectures, readings, and assignments, all work submitted must be the product of each student's own effort. Students are expected to know and honor the standards of academic integrity followed by American universities; ignorance of these standards is not an excuse for committing an act of academic dishonesty (including plagiarism). If you have questions, please speak with your instructor, your academic advisor, or the department chair.

Please be advised that departmental policy requires instructors to formally file charges with the Office of Student Conduct, following procedures as laid out for faculty (<http://www.uta.edu/studentaffairs/conduct/faculty.html>), as well as notify the department chair of the filing of the charges.

Student Support Services Available: The University of Texas at Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. These resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals to resources for any reason, students may contact the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107 or visit www.uta.edu/resources for more information.

Final Review Week: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any

themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the course syllabus. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week.

Electronic Communication: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory will be asked to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS) about the course and how it was taught. Instructions on how to access the SFS system will be sent directly to students through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback data is required by state law; student participation in the SFS program is voluntary.

Auditors: The Department of Linguistics and TESOL has a "no audit" policy. However, with instructor permission, Department of Linguistics and TESOL faculty, staff, and students enrolled in a linguistics/TESOL program may be able to sit in on a course. These courses cannot be used to satisfy any degree or program requirements/electives, nor will any credit (including retroactive credit) be granted.

Librarian to Contact: Jody Bailey (jbailey@uta.edu)