

**LING 3301: Topics in Linguistics – Psycholinguistics**  
Spring 2016

**Instructor:** Naoko Witzel

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**Office Hours:** Mondays 3-5pm or by appointment

**Graduate Teaching Assistant:** TBA

*We will respond to emails within the next 24 business hours.*

**Section Information:** LING 3301-001

**Time and Place of Class Meetings:** Tuesdays/Thursdays 12:30-1:50pm Trimble Hall 119

**Description of Course Content:** Covers issues related to language and linguistics. Topics may include language and film/literature/pop culture, endangered languages, speech synthesis, applied linguistics, or other topics determined by instructor. May be repeated for credit when content changes. No prerequisites.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Upon successfully completing this course, students should be able to:

- 1) understand major topics in the field of psycholinguistics;
- 2) understand the experimental techniques used to investigate psycholinguistic questions;
- 3) create psycholinguistic experiments using DMDX; and
- 4) design, run, and report on a psycholinguistic experiment.

**Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials:**

- Eva M. Fernandez & Helen Smith Cairns (2011). *Fundamentals of Psycholinguistics*. Wiley-Blackwell.
- You are responsible for checking this Blackboard site regularly to access (among other things) class notes, updates, readings, and assignments.

**Descriptions of major assignments and examinations:**

**GROUP PROJECT (60%):** You will conduct a small-scale replication study to investigate a research question in psycholinguistics along with 3 to 4 classmates. This project will consist of the following components:

*Research design (7%):* You will read a study assigned to your group. You will read the Methods section very carefully. Based on this, you will design a replication study. You should provide information on the conditions that you will test, how many items there should be in each condition, how many counterbalancing lists there are, and types of distractors. You will

be graded as a group on how well you have understood the original study as well as how clearly you explain your design.

*Creating items on excel file (7%):* Based on your research design, you will create experimental items as a group. You will organize the information on the excel file as instructed in the class. You will be graded as a group on how the experimental items follow the description of each of the conditions as described in the research design, whether you have counterbalanced the items correctly, as well as how well you have organized the information on the excel file.

*Experimental files (7%):* Based on the excel file that you have submitted, you will create experimental files as a group. You will be asked to submit rtf files and .bat files. You will be graded as a group based on how accurately you have coded the experiment.

*Participating in others' experiment (5%):* You will be asked to participate minimally in other groups' experiments. You will get extra bonus points if you recruit family members and friends to take your experiment.

*Findings (7%):* After the data collection is completed, you will write up a short report of your findings as a group. You will present data of the results, as well as write up a brief interpretation of what the results mean. You will be graded based on the accuracy of your report of the results, and how clearly you explain the interpretation of those results.

*Group presentation (7%):* As a group, you will present on your project as a group. Please make sure that you state the research question, the methods of your study (including information on the participants, materials, and procedure), your findings, and the interpretation of your findings. You have 20 minutes of presentation time with additional 5 minutes of questions from the audience. You will be graded as a group on how clearly you explained your project.

*Final paper (20%):* For the final paper, you will write up what you have already presented in the group presentation. You will be graded on how clearly and accurately you explained your project. This will be graded at an individual basis.

**Attendance:** At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, course engagement refers to regular on-time attendance, preparation for class, participation in discussion, and physical as well as mental presence in the classroom. Please note that many of the activities in this class involve group work, and therefore it is imperative that you come and participate in class. ***More than one absence (excused or unexcused) will negatively affect your grade.***

**Other Requirements:** No prerequisites.

**Grading:** Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels; see "Student Support Services," below. Your course grade will be determined as follows (A = 90% or above; B = 80-90%; C = 70-80%; D=60-70%, F = below 60%). Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

- 30% Course engagement (in-class group work)
- 10% Readings (pop quizzes and in-class activities)
- 60% Group project
  - Graded as a group
    - Research design 7%
    - Creating items on excel file 7%
    - Experimental files 7%
    - Findings 7%
    - Group Presentations 7%
  - Graded as a group
    - Participating in others' experiment 5%
    - Final paper 20%

***Late assignments will not be accepted.***

***Your final paper should be uploaded onto the course Blackboard site by noon on the due date.***

***The research design, excel file with the items, experimental files, and findings should be submitted via email by the group leader. Please make sure to cc all your group mates that contributed substantially to the project.***

***Please note that all assignments will be graded on content. Submitted assignments do not ensure a passing grade. Please be sure to be relevant in all your assignments.***

**Expectations for Out-of-Class Study:** Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional 9 hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

**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. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://www.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

**Disability Accommodations:** UT 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)*, *The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA)*, and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act*. 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 disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a letter certified by the **Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD)**. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:

**The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD)** [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or calling 817-272-3364.  
**Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS)** [www.uta.edu/caps/](http://www.uta.edu/caps/) or calling 817-272-3671.

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](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**Title IX:** The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit [uta.edu/eos](http://uta.edu/eos). For information regarding Title IX, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX).

**Academic Integrity:** Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) 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.

**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" shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**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 class 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. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

**Emergency Exit Procedures:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional

staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

**Student Support Services:** UT 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. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at <http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php>

**The English Writing Center (411LIBR):** Hours are 9 am to 8 pm Mondays-Thursdays, 9 am to 3 pm Fridays and Noon to 5 pm Saturdays and Sundays. Walk In *Quick Hits* sessions during all open hours Mon-Thurs. Register and make appointments online at <http://uta.mywconline.com>. Classroom Visits, Workshops, and advanced services for graduate students and faculty are also available. Please see [www.uta.edu/owl](http://www.uta.edu/owl) for detailed information.

**Librarian to Contact:** Jody Bailey ([jbailey@uta.edu](mailto:jbailey@uta.edu)). Jody can help you find the best scholarly, authoritative materials you'll need for your research project. If you need immediate help during evenings and weekends, contact the UTA Library Central Service Point: <http://ask.uta.edu/>. Additional help can be found on these guides:

- Linguistics Research Guide: <http://libguides.uta.edu/linguistics>
- TESOL Research Guide: <http://libguides.uta.edu/tesol>

## Course Schedule

*As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course. – Naoko Witzel*

### IMPORTANT DATES

2/4 Sign up for project groups  
2/16 Email the research design (one per group)  
3/3 Email the excel file (one per group)  
3/31 Email the experimental files (one set per group)  
4/26 Email findings (one per group)  
5/3, 5/5 Group presentations  
5/11 Submit final paper via Blackboard (individually)  
(Other important dates: 2/3 Census Day; 4/1 Last day to drop classes)

### OUTLINE OF TOPICS & READING ASSIGNMENTS

Class #	Date	Topic	Reading Assignment and other deadlines
1	1/19	<i>Introduction to Psycholinguistics</i>	
2	1/21	<i>What is an experiment?</i>	F&C, Appendix

3	1/26	<i>How does the language processor work?</i>	
4	1/28	<i>Linguistics &amp; psycholinguistics</i>	F&C, Chapters 1 and 2
5	2/2		F&C, Chapters 1 and 2
6	2/4	<i>Visual word recognition and masked priming</i>	F&C, Chapter 6 (pp. 187-194) <b>Sign up for Project Groups</b>
7	2/9	<b>Project workshop 1: Sketching out a research design</b>	Article assigned to your project group <b>**Classes in Trimble Hall 014.**</b>
8	2/11		
9	2/16	<i>Visual word recognition</i>	F&C, Chapter 6 (pp. 187-202) <b>Submit a research design</b>
10	2/18		F&C, Chapter 6 (pp. 187-202)
11	2/23	<b>Project workshop 2: Creating items</b>	<b>**Classes in Trimble Hall 014.**</b>
12	2/25		
13	3/1	<i>Speech perception and spoken word recognition</i>	F&C, Chapter 6 (pp. 169-186)
14	3/3		F&C, Chapter 6 (pp. 169-186) <b>Submit excel file with items</b>
15	3/8		F&C, Chapter 6 (pp. 170-186)
16	3/10	<i>Sentence processing</i>	F&C, Chapter 7
17	3/15	Spring Break	<b>**No class.**</b>
18	3/17		
19	3/22	<b>Project workshop 3: Coding the experiment</b>	<b>**Classes in Trimble Hall 014.**</b>
20	3/24		
21	3/29	<i>Sentence processing</i>	F&C, Chapter 7
22	3/31		F&C, Chapter 8 <b>Submit rtf files and other experimental files</b>
23	4/5	<i>Production</i>	F&C, Chapter 5 (pp. 134-153)
24	4/7	<b>Project workshop 4: Data collection</b>	<b>**Classes in Trimble Hall 014.**</b>
25	4/12	<i>Production</i>	F&C, Chapter 5 (pp. 134-153)
26	4/14		F&C, Chapter 5 (pp. 134-153)

27	4/19	<b><i>Project workshop 5: Data analysis</i></b>	<b><i>**Classes in Trimble Hall 014.**</i></b>
28	4/21		
29	4/26	Review of the literature	<b><i>Submit findings</i></b>
30	4/28	<b><i>Project workshop 6: Presentation preparation</i></b>	
31	5/3	<b><i>Project presentations</i></b>	P group, O group, M group
32	5/5		S group

**Emergency Phone Numbers:** In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at **817-272-3003** (non-campus phone), **2-3003** (campus phone). You may also dial 911. Non-emergency number 817-272-3381