

COURSE OUTLINE

Psychology 440
Psycholinguistics
Tuesday/Thursday 11:00-12:20

Instructor:

Dr. Dare A. Baldwin

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Text:

Berko Gleason, J., & Bernstein Ratner, N. (1993). Psycholinguistics. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich College Publishers.

Additional Readings: on reserve at the library

Overview:

Psycholinguistics falls at the intersection of many different fields, including linguistics, philosophy, anthropology, artificial intelligence, speech science, neuroscience, and of course, psychology. We will survey issues stemming from each of these disciplines. In particular, we will focus on state-of-the-art findings and cutting-edge questions concerning the fundamental abilities that underlie human language. A common misconception is that one learns about the specifics of particular languages in a course on psychology of language; for example, how Russian uses different case-endings than German. Instead, this course emphasizes the commonalities that underlie human languages everywhere, and what these commonalities tell us about the nature of the human language-making capacity. I hope you will find the material to be both interesting and challenging.

Format:

Grades for the course will be based on two exams and one paper. Each exam will be worth 40% of your final mark. The midterm exam will take place on Tuesday, May 4. The final exam is scheduled to occur on Wednesday, June 9 at 3:15 p.m. Before each exam I will give you a list of study questions to help you prepare for the exam. A few of the questions on the exam will be taken from this list. You should note that there will be no make-up exams unless you have a written excuse from a physician stating that you were too ill on that day to write the exam. Marks may be scaled to ensure that the class distribution meets the university standards. The paper, to be roughly 5-8 pages in length, will be due on Thursday, May 20. A set of potential topics for your paper will be given to you several weeks into the term. The paper will account for 20% of your overall grade.

Below is a list of lecture topics and accompanying reading assignments. The chapters refer to the chapters in your text, and the additional readings refer to articles available at the reserve desk at the library. The additional readings as well as the text are required reading for the course.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
Mar. 30	Analysis of Language: Overview	Text Ch. 1 Rdg. 1
Apr. 1-8	Semantics and the Representation of Meaning	Text Ch. 4
Apr. 13-15	Pragmatics: Principles of Conversation	Text Ch. 6 Rdg. 2
Apr. 20-29	Syntax & Sentence Processing	Text Chs. 5 & 7
May 4	Midterm Exam	
May 6-11	Phonetics, Phonology, & Speech Perception	Text Ch. 3 Rdg. 3
May 13-18	Biological Foundations of Language	Text Ch. 2
May 20-25	Animal Communication	Rdg. 4
May 27- June 3	Language Acquisition	Text Chs. 8 & 10 Rdgs. 5 & 6

Additional Readings (at the library reserve desk)

1. Miller, G. A. (1981). Ch. 1 ("Uniquely Human") from Language and speech, NY: W.H. Freeman and Co.
2. Gibbs, R. W. (1984). Literal meaning and psychological meaning. Cognitive Science, 8, 275-304.
3. Werker, J. F. (1989). Becoming a native listener. American Scientist, 77, 54-39.
4. Seyfarth, R. M., & Cheney, D. L. (1992). Meaning and mind in monkeys. Scientific American, 267, 122-128.
5. Fernald, A. (1991). Meaningful melodies in mother's speech to infants. In H. Papousek, U. Jurgens, & M. Papousek (Eds.), Origins and development of nonverbal vocal communication: Evolutionary, comparative, and methodological aspects. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
6. Newport, E. L. (1990). Maturational constraints on language learning. Cognitive Science, 14, 11-28.