

Psycholinguistics

PSY 440

Winter 2004

Tu., Th. 12-1:20

Instructor: Eric Pakulak

Office: 278 Straub

Phone: 346-4892

E-mail: pak@oregon.uoregon.edu

Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday 1:30-2:30 or by appointment

Course website: <http://blackboard.uoregon.edu/>

Course overview:

This course provides an introduction to the core issues and methods of psycholinguistics, which combines insights from a variety of fields including linguistics, psychology, artificial intelligence, philosophy, and neuroscience to examine the relationship between the human mind and language. The primary questions addressed by psycholinguistics are how humans comprehend, produce, and acquire language. With the advent of modern neuroimaging techniques it is increasingly difficult to discuss cognition without discussing biology; therefore, this class will emphasize the contributions of cognitive neuroscience to various issues in psycholinguistics. We will begin with a review of language subsystems from the perspective of linguistics, after which we will cover basic brain anatomy and neuroimaging techniques relevant to psycholinguistics. Then we will consider evidence, both from classic behavioral and from newer neuroimaging studies, bearing on the primary questions of human language comprehension, production, and acquisition. Though the course is primarily lecture format, I hope to present the material in a way which will encourage original thought and classroom discussion.

Required reading:

Whitney, P. (1998). *The Psychology of Language*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin. (Available at U of O bookstore).

Additional readings will be made available via e-reserve:

http://libweb.uoregon.edu/acs_svc/reserve-index.html

Requirements/Grading:

Four quizzes: 60%

Two projects: 40%

Quizzes:

Quizzes will consist of multiple choice, short-answer, and short essay questions and will cover both material from the book and from the lectures. While none of the quizzes will be cumulative in nature, some of the concepts and questions we will be addressing throughout the course build upon each other and essay questions may reflect this. Review test questions will either be presented and discussed in class or posted on the Blackboard class webpage prior to each quiz.

Projects:

The first project will be a take-home assignment on language transcription in which you will record and transcribe a conversation between two friends. The second project will be a research critique in which you will select an original research article from a relevant journal and write a summary and critique of the research presented in the article. Detailed descriptions of the requirements for each project will be handed out separately.

Final exam:

Due to an unavoidable schedule conflict, there will be no final exam.

Lecture notes

Printable lecture notes for each class will be posted on the Blackboard class website by 4 PM on the day of class. Lecture notes will not be posted before class.

Academic Integrity:

This course will follow UO guidelines detailed in “Policies and Guidelines for Faculty, Instructors and Students: University of Oregon Policy on Academic Dishonesty”: <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~conduct/sai.htm> Please note that I take this issue very seriously. Review the UO policies and contact me if you have any questions.

Schedule:

Please note that the schedule is subject to change. Any changes to the schedule will be announced and posted on the Blackboard class website.

Schedule (subject to change)

Week	Date	Topics & Deadlines	Reading
1	1-6	Introduction What is language?	Ch. 1 (1-21)
	1-8	Nonhuman language	Ch. 1 (21-28)
2	1-13	Basic Phenomena of Language: Phonetics, Phonology, Morphology	Ch. 2 (31-44)
	1-15	Basic Phenomena of Language: Syntax, Semantics	Ch. 2 (45-72)
3	1-20	Basic Phenomena of Language: Semantics, Pragmatics, Review	
	1-22	QUIZ #1 Brain and language: Neuroanatomy of language, aphasia	Ch. 12 (359-365)
4	1-27	Brain and language: Aphasia	Ch. 12 (366-371)
	1-29	Brain and language: neuroimaging	Ch. 12 (366-371)
5	2-3	Language and memory: Working memory, semantic priming Models of language, past-tense debate	Ch. 3 (all)
	2-5	Speech perception Speech segmentation	Ch. 5 (141-159)
6	2-10	Speech segmentation Spoken word recognition	Ch. 5 (159-169)
	2-12	QUIZ #2 Visual word recognition	Ch. 6 (170-179)
7	2-17	PROJECT #1 DUE Reading and lexical access	Ch. 6 (179–191)
	2-19	Sentence processing: Lexical and syntactic ambiguity	Ch. 7 (203-222)
8	2-24	Sentence processing: Figurative meaning	Ch. 7 (223-231)
	2-26	QUIZ #3 Language production and conversation	Ch. 9 (all)
9	3-2	Language acquisition: Methods and milestones	Ch. 10 (301-326)
	3-4	Language acquisition: Nativist debate PROJECT # 2 DUE	Ch. 10 (327-332)
10	3-9	Language acquisition: Effects of experience	Ch. 11 (all)
	3-11	Wrapup and review QUIZ #4	

