

PSY 440: Psycholinguistics
Summer 2005 • MUWH • 4:00 – 5:50 PM • 116 Eslinger

Instructor: Georgina Parra, M.S.

Office: Straub 398 • Office phone: 346-4947 ☎

Office hours: Tuesday & Thursday 2:00 – 3:00, or by appt.

e-mail address: gparra@uoregon.edu (best way to reach me) 📧

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will focus on the commonalities inherent in language, that is, the basic nature of the human capacity for language production. The psychology of language (i.e. psycholinguistics) invariably draws from many fields, including linguistics, neuroscience, philosophy and cognitive science. The primary objective of this course is to use the knowledge and methods specific to each field to gain a broader and deeper understanding of human language.

REQUIRED TEXT: 📖

Carroll, D. W. (2004). Psychology of Language (4rd ed.) Wadsworth, Thompson Learning Inc.

CLASS FORMAT:

Classes will be a mixture of lecture, discussion, and/or group exercises. In order to be fully engaged and to participate in each class session, it is essential that you read and think about the material to be covered in lecture **before** you come to class. This will enhance your learning experience.

Please note: Lecture material is **selective**. We will not cover everything in the text in class, and new material (not in the text) will be introduced in class. So, if you miss a class, it will be very important to get the class notes from another student. 📝 ✍

SUMMER WORKLOAD:

Upon completing this course you will earn 4 credits toward your degree. The requirements for this course are equivalent to those in the same course over 10 weeks during the regular academic year. By continuing in this course, you are accepting that the workload for this class is 2 ½ times that of a 4 credit class during the regular academic year. According to University principles governing credit and contact hours, each credit is equivalent to 30 hours of work. Your 4 credits in this course are equivalent to 120 hours of work over 4 weeks (30 hours per week). You will spend 8 hours in class each week and should expect to spend up to 22 hours engaged in reading, studying, writing papers, and/or completing homework assignments outside of class each week.

GRADING:

Quizzes:

The course is divided into four units, each about one week in length. There will be an in-class quiz at the end of each unit, making a total of four quizzes. The quizzes will be non-cumulative. That is, the material covered on each quiz will include only the material contained in a single unit. Quiz questions will cover material from

both class lecture-discussions **and** assigned readings. Again, if you miss a class, it will be important to get class notes from another student. Each quiz accounts for 10% of your grade, for a cumulative total of 40%.

Thought Questions:

Discussion will be an important part of this course. As such, Thought Questions are meant to prepare you to better engage in class discussions. You will complete 7 Thought Questions, cumulatively worth 20% of your grade. Responses should consist of 1 pg., double spaced written answers (1" margins, 12-point Times Roman, 11 point Arial or equivalent font). Thought questions are due in class, on the days specified below.

Journal Article Review & Presentation:

You are required to read and evaluate an empirical article in the literature according to the guidelines specified below. The purpose of this article review assignment is to give you an opportunity to focus on a topic of your interest, allowing you to broaden your knowledge of it. Furthermore, each student will present their review in a 10- minute class presentation. This review and the presentation are cumulatively worth 30% of your grade. Your journal review should consist of a minimum of 5 double-spaced typed pages (APA style) and address the following components:

Hypothesis: What theoretical position was the author trying to test? What was the author searching for?

Method: What procedures and methods were used to test the hypothesis?

Results and Discussion: What were the major findings? How concordant are these findings with the original hypothesis? What conclusions were drawn?

Evaluation: What do you think about this research study? Was the hypothesis reasonable? What may have improved the research? What confounds were present? Conversely, what components did you find suitable and well-conducted? How might these research findings be extended into future research?

Attendance:

Given the nature of the course, attendance will account for 10% of your grade.

EXTRA CREDIT:

Extra credit can be earned by participating in the Psychology Department Human Subjects Research Pool. For each hour of participation you can earn a 1% improvement in your grade as long as you hand in a 1-2 page description of the goals and methodology of each research study you participated in. You can improve your grade up to 4% (i.e. you can participate in 4 hours of research credit). The research descriptions are due by 4 p.m. on Thursday August 11th in the main office of the Psychology Department in Straub Hall. Visit <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~hscoord>

ADDITIONAL NOTES:


Students with disabilities: If you are having difficulty and are in need of academic support because of a documented disability, whether it be psychiatric, learning, physical, hearing, or vision, you may be eligible for academic accommodations. Please talk to me at the end of the first class.

Experiencing a problem?: If you are having any difficulties with the class -- such as dealing with the material, making it to class on time, attending class, doing poorly on the exams, or dealing with other students - please let me know as soon as possible so that we can work together toward resolving the issue.

Academic Honesty: As a student at the University of Oregon, you are expected to abide by the honor code. All work submitted in this course must be your own and produced solely for this class. The source of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly acknowledged and documented. Plagiarism is the inclusion of someone else's words, ideas, or data as your own. By placing one's name on a work submitted for credit, the student certifies the originality of all work.

On written assignments, if statements are included verbatim, they should be enclosed by quotation marks or set off from regular text as indented extracts. Unauthorized collaboration with others on papers or projects can lead to a charge of plagiarism. If in doubt, consult with the instructor or seek assistance from the staff of Academic Learning Services (68 PLC, 346-3226). UO website regarding academic honesty:
<http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~conduct>

CLASS SCHEDULE: LECTURE TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS
(subject to slight changes as course unfolds)

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Lecture topic</u>	<u>Readings</u> 
Introduction	Mo 7/18	Language: Who has it? What is it? and what is so special about it?	
Unit I:	Sound Sense		Chapter 1 Chapters 2, 3, 4
	Tu 7/19	Linguistic Principles	
	We 7/20	Psychological Mechanisms	
	Th 7/21	Perception of Language QUIZ #1	
Unit II:	Making and Structuring Meaning		Chapters 5, 6, 7
	Mo 7/25	Internal Lexicon	
	Tu 7/26	Sentence Comprehension	
	We 7/27	Discourse Comprehension	
	Th 7/28	QUIZ #2	
Unit III:	Conversational Interaction		Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11
	Mo 8/1	Speech and Language Production	
	Tu 8/2	Language Acquisition	
	We 8/3	Communication	
	Th 8/4	QUIZ #3	
Unit IV:	Language Epigenesis		Chapters 12, 13, 14
	Mo 8/8	Processes of Language Acquisition	
	Tu 8/9	Biological Foundations	
	We 8/10	Cognition and Culture	
	Th 8/11	QUIZ #4	

Assignment DUE Dates:

Sound Sense

We 7/20 Chapter 1: Thought Question #2 (pg. 16)
Th 7/21 QUIZ #1

Making and Structuring Meaning

Tu 7/26 Chapter 5: Thought Question #3 (pg.124)
We 7/27 Chapter 6: Thought Question #1 (pg. 151)
Th 7/28 QUIZ #2

Conversational Interaction

Tu 8/2 Chapter 9 : Thought Question #3 (pg.238)
We 8/3 Chapter 10: Thought Question #1 (pg.271)
Th 8/4 QUIZ #3

Language Epigenesis

Mo 8/8 Empirical Journal Review & Presentation
Tu 8/9 Chapter 13: Thought Question #4 (pg. 374)
We 8/10 Chapter 14: Thought Question #3 (pg.399)
Th 8/11 QUIZ #4