

LING/PSYC 370A
Psycholinguistics

Course Outline — Fall Term 2016

LECTURE: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:30 to 5:45 p.m., Cornett B108

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Dave McKercher

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OFFICE HOURS: Thursdays, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., or by appointment

TEXTBOOK AND i>CLICKER (REQUIRED):

- ▷ Harley, Trevor A. 2014. *The Psychology of Language: From data to theory, 4th Edition*. Psychology Press. (\$107.50 New, \$80.75 Used)
- ▷ i>clicker (\$55.75 New, \$41.75 Used)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- ▷ Companion website for the textbook at www.psypress.com/cw/harley, containing quizzes, flashcards, weblinks, and a glossary.
- ▷ Field, John. 2004. *Psycholinguistics: The Key Concepts*. Routledge. [An encyclopedia of important psycholinguistic terms, techniques, and phenomena.] Available as an electronic resource through library.uvic.ca and on reserve in McPherson Library (P37 F5).
- ▷ Miller, George A. 1991. *The Science of Words*. Scientific American Library. On reserve in McPherson Library (P326 M55).

COURSE DETAILS:

- ▷ DESCRIPTION: This is a course in the psychology of language that addresses questions related to the biological underpinnings of language, language comprehension (including speech perception, lexical knowledge, and sentence and discourse comprehension), language production (including lexical access, sentence planning, conversational interaction, and speech errors), and first language acquisition (a brief general introduction to the acquisition of phonology, morphology, and syntax and to word learning). [Note that LING 370B covers first language acquisition in detail.]
- ▷ COURSESPACES: This course has an accompanying website in CourseSpaces. You will find links to certain course readings, optional extra readings and other resources at coursespaces.uvic.ca, so please be sure to check it regularly. Lecture notes will not be posted in CourseSpaces, so be sure to attend class, take notes, and ask questions.

▷ COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- In-class participation exercises using i>clicker, worth 10% of your course mark.
- Journal Article Summaries (see below), worth 20% of your course mark, due on Thursday, December 1st.
- Term test #1, worth 15% of your course mark, on Thursday, October 13th. (60 minutes, multiple choice and short answer format)
- Term test #2, worth 15% of your course mark, on Tuesday, November 15th (60 minutes, multiple choice and short answer format)
- Final exam, worth 40% of your course mark, during the Final Exam Period (2 hours, multiple choice and short answer format)

▷ GRADING SCALE: Final percentage scores will be rounded to the nearest whole number (e.g., 79.5% rounded to 80%, 79.4% rounded to 79%) and submitted to Records. Both the percentage and the letter grade, as determined from the following University-wide grading scale, will appear on transcripts as well as the average final percentage for the class, and the class size.

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|---------|----|--------|----|--------|----|
| 90-100% | A+ | 77-79% | B+ | 65-69% | C+ |
| 85-89% | A | 73-76% | B | 60-64% | C |
| 80-84% | A- | 70-72% | B- | 50-59% | D |
| | | | | < 50% | F |

▷ GRADE DESCRIPTIONS: Please see the 2016-2017 Undergraduate Calendar (web.uvic.ca/calendar2016-09/undergrad/info/regulations/grading.html) for the qualitative descriptors of student performance.

▷ i>CLICKER PARTICIPATION EXERCISES: At almost every class, there will be questions on current readings and lecture material that you will answer by the use of your i>clicker. You will receive full credit for correct answers and partial credit for incorrect answers, i.e., credit simply for participation. If you miss class or forget your i>clicker, you get no credit for that session. **Please bring your i>clicker to every class.**

▷ JOURNAL ARTICLE SUMMARIES: The purposes of this assignment are:

- to read current refereed journal articles that address research questions in psycholinguistics;
- to extract the main points from the article: the authors' claims, psycholinguistic methods used to collect data, and how the results provide support for the claims;
- to write a one-page summary of each article that anyone could read and find out what contribution the article has made to the field of psycholinguistics.

Detailed instructions will be provided on a separate handout.

▷ TERM TESTS: The term tests will be in class on Thursday, October 13th and Tuesday, November 15th. Any student who misses a test (1) must call or leave a message **prior** to the test indicating he/she is unable to attend, (2) must have a valid reason (personal tragedy or illness), and (3) must provide supporting documentation, such as a medical

certificate with the relevant date or a detailed written explanation. If these conditions are met, then the value of the missed term test will be added to the value of the final exam. If these conditions are not met, a score of zero will be recorded for that component of the course.

- ▷ FINAL EXAM: The final exam is two hours and will be held during the Final Examination Period. It will be based on the entire course. Please note that the timing of the final exam is controlled by the University, and not by the Department of Linguistics nor by course instructors. It could be on any day between December 5th and 19th.

The final exam is an essential requirement of the course, which means that you are required to write the final exam in order to pass the course, even if you have a grade of 50% or higher based on the term tests and assignments. In other words, failure to write the final exam will result in a failing grade, even where a final grade of 50% or higher is achieved.

- ▷ DEFERRED STATUS: If you miss the final exam because of injury, family or personal affliction, or illness, see the regulations in the 2016-2017 Undergraduate Calendar on how to apply for deferred status (web.uvic.ca/calendar2016-09/undergrad/info/regulations/concessions.html). If a deferral is granted, a deferred final exam must be completed by April, 2017.
- ▷ ON-LINE COURSE EXPERIENCE SURVEYS: Towards the end of term, as in all other courses at UVic, you will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous survey regarding your learning experience (CES). The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, and it helps the department improve its overall programs. When it is time for you to complete the survey you will receive an email inviting you to do so. You will need to use your UVic netlink ID to access the survey, which can be done on your laptop, tablet, or mobile device. I will remind you and provide you with more detailed information nearer the time but please be thinking about this important activity during the course.
- ▷ ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: All work done in this course must be your work only. Academic integrity is expected from each student; all forms of student dishonesty are considered unacceptable. Each student is required to complete his or her own assignments and to behave in an appropriate manner during all exams. That is, students must refrain from looking at other students' work or at materials that are not permitted. For more information, please refer to the Policy on Academic Integrity (web.uvic.ca/calendar2016-09/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html) and the relevant Help Video available from youtube.com/user/UVicLibraries.
- ▷ INTERNET ACCESS DURING CLASS: I request that, during class, you refrain from using electronic devices for e-mail, text-messaging, and web-surfing. During class, I expect that you will do your utmost to be engaged in the lecture and discussion and that you will take notes on important points, ask questions, and contribute to discussion. Use of electronics for anything other than these tasks is distracting to you, your classmates, and to me and might well have a negative impact on your success in the course.

▷ SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE):

[Readings refer to Harley, T. 2014. *The Psychology of Language, 4th edition.*]

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| Sep 8 (Thu) | Introduction to the course |
| Sep 13 (Tue) | What is psycholinguistics and what do psycholinguists study? Reading: Chapter 1 (pp. 3–27), especially pages 3 to 16 |
| Sep 15 (Thu) | Describing language: From sounds to sentences Reading: Chapter 2 (pp. 30–46), especially pages 30 to 40 |
| Sep 20 (Tue) | Biological foundations of language Reading: Chapter 3 (pp. 51–73), especially pages 67 to 73 Video: <i>Unlocking Language</i> [NOTE: Sept 20 is the last day to drop with a 100% fee reduction] |
| Sep 22 (Thu) | Biological foundations of language, continued |
| Sep 27 (Tue) | The “Critical Period” Hypothesis Reading: Chapter 3 (pp. 73–80) Video: <i>Secret of a Wild Child</i> |
| Sep 29 (Thu) | Language development Reading: Chapter 4 (pp. 104–125), especially pages 105–10, 119–21, 123–4 |
| Oct 4 (Tue) | Language development (continued) Reading: Chapter 4 (pp. 125–151), especially pages 127–31 & 144–5 |
| Oct 6 (Thu) | Visual word recognition Reading: Chapter 6 (pp. 167–190) |
| Oct 11 (Tue) | Models of lexical access Reading: Chapter 6 (pp. 190–207) [NOTE: October 11 is the last day to drop with a 50% fee reduction] |
| Oct 13 (Thu) | TERM TEST #1 (60 MINUTES) |
| Oct 18 (Tue) | Lexical access, continued Reading: Chapter 6 |
| Oct 20 (Thu) | Speech perception Reading: Chapter 9 (pp. 258–282) |

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| Oct 25 (Tue) | Structural processing Reading: Chapter 10 (pp. 287–295), especially pages 288 to 290 |
| Oct 27 (Thu) | Sentence parsing strategies Reading: Chapter 10 (pp. 295–312), especially pages 295 to 298, 304 to 305, and 310 to 312 [NOTE: October 31 is the last day to drop without penalty of failure] |
| Nov 1 (Tue) | Word meaning and semantic networks Reading: Chapter 11 (pp. 319–332) |
| Nov 3 (Thu) | Processing figurative language Reading: Chapter 11 (pp. 337–339), plus additional reading on CourseSpaces |
| Nov 8 (Tue) | Discourse comprehension and inferences Reading: Chapter 12 (pp. 360–391), especially pages 360 to 377 |
| Nov 15 (Tue) | TERM TEST #2 (60 MINUTES) |
| Nov 17 (Thu) | Cohesion and coherence, continued Reading: Chapter 12 (pp. 360–391), especially pages 360 to 377 |
| Nov 22 (Tue) | Speech production: Planning and speech errors Reading: Chapter 13 (pp. 395–409) |
| Nov 24 (Thu) | Speech production: Articulation, monitoring and self-repair Reading: To be announced |
| Nov 29 (Tue) | Using language: Conversational interaction Reading: Chapter 14 (pp. 449–458) |
| Dec 1 (Thu) | Course retrospective Reading: Your notes JOURNAL ARTICLE SUMMARY ASSIGNMENT DUE |
| Dec 5 to 19 | FINAL EXAM PERIOD Two-hour final exam at some point during the final exam period |