

# Psycholinguistics

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Course Number: ENGL423	Class Hours: MTWR 9-11:50
Instructor: Hyunah Ahn	Classroom: Online via zoom
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Last Updated: December 21, 2020

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to main language phenomena discussed in attempts to understand human language cognition, methods of investigating such issues via behavioral and neural experiments, and theories established from experimental findings. Language phenomena and psycholinguistic theories that attempt to understand them are dealt with at the levels of sound segments, words, sentences, and discourse. Starting from a brief overview of language science, the course will cover speech sound production and comprehension, word processing, sentence processing, discourse processing, reference, and conversation. Given the intensive nature of winter term courses, students are highly encouraged to obtain a copy of the main textbook (see below) and start reading it at their earliest convenience.

## STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, students will be able to...

- identify elements that make meaning distinctions at the levels of sound segments, words, sentences, and discourse
- explain the workings of elements involved in communication (deixis, common ground, etc.)
- list methods that can probe without using metalinguistic terms what interpretations listeners and speakers have on speech sounds, words, and sentences
- critically discuss processes that produce abstract generalizations out of specific, empirical evidence and write the criticisms in a response paper

## MATERIALS

### Textbook (Required)

Traxler, Matthew J. (2012). *Introduction to psycholinguistics: Understanding language science*. Wiley-Blackwell.

## Reading list

To be made available soon

## REQUIREMENTS

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Attendance & Participation	10%
Assignments	20%
Midterm	25%
Final exam	25%
Team presentation (& discussion leadership)	20%

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### Attendance & Participation

You are deemed present in class only if your camera and microphone are both on. For every day's absence, you will lose 3 percentage points. Please note that your 4th day absence will result in an automatic F. Active participation in class activities and discussions are encouraged. Also, students are asked to take the class in a quiet place so they can keep their microphones on (preferably) and can participate in group discussions without bringing in unnecessary noises into group discussion rooms and into the main session of the class.

### Assignments

You will be asked to write a critical response paper to one of the articles to be made available at the beginning of the semester. In writing workshop 1, instructions will be given on how to read a research article and on how to write a critical response paper about it. In writing workshop 2, you and your peers will exchange your response papers and give reviews on them following a peer review worksheet. The final draft of your response paper is due the beginning of class on the final exam day.

### Exams

Midterm and final exams will be given on Day 8 and day 16, respectively, in an open-book style. The two exams will include fill-in-blanks, short answer, multiple-choice, and essay-type (longer answer) questions. Given that the winter course is intensive with its short time span, you are strongly recommended to review the textbook and class materials ahead of time.

### Team presentation & Discussion leadership

From the list of research articles to be made available in the beginning of the semester, you will have to pick another research article (different from the one you choose for your writing assignment). You are required to give a team presentation and lead a follow-up discussion. You will first submit a list of three articles in the order of your preference to the instructor. You will be assigned to a team of those who preferred the same article as you. On the day of presentation, you have to spend about 20 minutes to explain what the research questions are, what experimental methods were used, what results were obtained, and how the authors interpret their results. For the remaining 30 minutes, you will have your peers have small group discussions using the worksheet you prepare first, and later you will lead a whole-class discussion so everyone can share what they have talked about in their small group discussions.

# TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Week	Day	Date	Time	To-do's
1	Tue	22 Dec 20	9:00-9:50 10:00-10:50 11:00-11:50	Greetings and ice-breaker Course overview Ch 1. Language Science
2	Wed	23 Dec 20	9:00-11:50	Ch 1. Language Science
3	Thu	24 Dec 20	9:00-11:50	Ch 2. Speech production & comprehension
4	Mon	28 Dec 20	9:00-9:50 10:00-10:50 11:00-11:50	Ch 2. Speech production & comprehension Ch 3. Word processing Team Presentation 1
5	Tue	29 Dec 20	9:00-10:50 11:00-11:50	Ch 3. Word processing Team Presentation 2
6	Wed	30 Dec 20	9:00-10:50 11:00-11:50	Ch 3. Word processing Team Presentation 3
7	Thu	31 Dec 20	9:00-9:50 10:00-10:50 11:00-11:50	Ch 3. Word processing Ch 4. Sentence processing Team Presentation 4
8	Mon	4 Jan 21	9:00-11:50	<b>Midterm</b>
9	Tue	5 Jan 21	9:00-10:50 11:00-11:50	Ch4. Sentence processing Writing workshop 1
10	Wed	6 Jan 21	9:00-10:50 11:00-11:50	Ch 4. Sentence processing Team Presentation 5
11	Thu	7 Jan 21	9:00-9:50 10:00-10:50 11:00-11:50	Ch 4. Sentence processing Ch 5. Discourse processing Team Presentation 6
12	Mon	11 Jan 21	9:00-10:50 11:00-11:50	Ch 5. Discourse processing Team Presentation 7
13	Tue	12 Jan 21	9:00-10:50 11:00-11:50	Ch 5. Discourse processing Team Presentation 8
14	Wed	13 Jan 21	9:00-10:50 10:00-10:50 11:00-11:50	Ch 5. Discourse processing Ch 6. Reference Writing Workshop 2
15	Thu	14 Jan 21	9:00-11:50	Ch 6. Reference
16	Mon	18 Jan 21	9:00-11:50	<b>Final Exam</b>