



**Faculty of Arts**  
**School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures**

LING/PSYC 467  
Psycholinguistics  
Winter 2024  
TR 12:30 – 13:45 ST 064

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**INSTRUCTOR'S NAME:** Mahyar Nakhaei

**OFFICE HOURS:** Online: Wednesdays 10:00 – 11:00 via zoom meeting ID: 5244201248  
In-person: Wednesdays 10:00 – 11:00 CHD 538  
or by appointments

**E-MAIL:** [mahyar.nakhaei1@ucalgary.ca](mailto:mahyar.nakhaei1@ucalgary.ca) [All emails will be responded within 48 business hours]

**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** N/A

**DESCRIPTION**

Conveying an idea or concept through spoken communication and reciprocally deciphering spoken words from others into a coherent and purposeful message involves a highly intricate process. This process engages a network of interconnected systems within the human mind/brain. The field of psycholinguistics delves into the examination of how individuals learn, generate, and understand language. Specifically, it investigates the systems, mechanisms, and cognitive representations that play a role in both the creation and comprehension of language.

**OBJECTIVES**

In this class, we will address essential information necessary for individuals, whether they are linguists or psychologists, seeking to investigate these cognitive processes. We will delve into findings from interdisciplinary foundational research designed to address pertinent questions in this field. Various theories and models of language processing will be scrutinized, along with both classical and contemporary experimental data supporting these models. Additionally, we will discuss the methodologies and procedures employed in psycholinguistic research, engaging in practical exercises that utilize some of these methods.

**OUTCOMES**

Students will acquaint themselves with pertinent background information, encompassing theories, frameworks, and significant discussions within the field of psycholinguistics. They will create and implement uncomplicated psycholinguistic experiments utilizing accessible experimental methods to assess a hypothesis and make predictions about the outcomes. Through the synthesis of covered ideas and background material, students will engage in informed discussions concerning the forecasts and ramifications of psycholinguistic theories, along with the requisite evidence to favor one perspective over another. Additionally, students will compose a well-reasoned and plausible research proposal grounded in a concise literature review, suggesting an experiment to test a precisely formulated hypothesis.

**REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS**

Language in Mind: An Introduction to Psycholinguistics (Second Edition) by Julie Sedivy

- *Note:* The book can be purchased either from the university bookstore or via the publisher's website at Oxford University Press, Amazon, etc.

The software required for doing lab exercises can be downloaded for free at [psychopy.org](http://psychopy.org).



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### RECOMMENDED COURSE MATERIALS

All lecture slides on D2L.

The lab tutorials at the instructor's personal YouTube channel at:  
<https://youtube.com/@mahyarnakhaei9268?si=wmb3HHGZYOYGHDPb>

### COURSE NOTES

- The classes start on Jan. 9 and end on Tuesday April 9.
- There are no classes in the reading week from Feb. 18 to Feb. 24 and on holidays and university closure dates. For the exact dates, refer to the University of Calgary Academic Schedule's webpage at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>
- This class will be held totally in-person on TR from 12:30-13:45pm at the assigned location.
- Attendance is NOT mandatory but strongly recommended. Experience shows those who attend the class meetings on a regular basis will get higher scores.
- Laptops, tablets, etc. are only allowed for educational purposes during class hours.
- Cellphones should be either switched off or put on the silent mode during class hours.

Students are required to check their D2L on a regular basis as it will be updated with the course information and evaluation.

### ASSESSMENT

Lab Assignments	3*5% = 15%
Assignments	4*10% = 40%
Quizzes	5*4% = 20%
Final Paper	25%

**Lab Assignments 15p (=3\*5p):** The main objective of these assignments is to give you practical experience in designing experiments from scratch in PsychoPy software and practicing how to get rid of unexpected errors while running experiments.

The estimated deadlines for lab assignments are:

Lab1 – Feb 8

Lab2 – March 7

Lab3 – March 28

The exact deadlines will be posted online on D2L.

**Assignments 40p (=4\*10p):** Not surprisingly, the main objective of these assignments is to have you practice more on the core topics you learn in the course. More important than the grades, assignments give you the opportunity of learning from your mistakes and determine which areas you might need more practice. It also gives me an alert whether there is a specific topic which needs more clarification in the class. The assignments will be posted one week prior to the deadline on D2L, and students are required to write the assignments in paper and deliver it to the TA in the class on the deadline date.

The estimated deadlines for assignments are:

A1 - Jan 25

A2 - Feb 22

A3 - March 21

A4 - April 2

The exact deadlines will be posted online on D2L.

**Quizzes 20p (=5\*4p):** The quizzes are in the form of MCQs or True/False which will be posted on D2L. The quizzes will be posted 48 hours prior to deadline dates and students must complete them in one sitting before the deadline dates. All quizzes will take no longer than 30 minutes to complete, but there is a 1-hour



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time-window to submit the answers.

The estimated deadlines for quizzes are:

Q1- Jan 18

Q2- Feb 1

Q3- Feb 29

Q4- March 14

Q5- April 4

The exact deadlines will be posted online on D2L. There is no extension on deadlines and students will miss the grade if they do not do the quiz by posted deadlines.

**Final 25p:** The final assignment involves composing a concise paper with a maximum limit of 3,000 words, excluding the References section. In this paper, students are expected to provide a detailed proposal for an experiment aimed at exploring a question within the field of psycholinguistics. Evaluation will be based on the overall quality of the proposal, considering both its form and content. Specifically, assessment criteria include: a) the background and motivation underpinning the study; b) the validity and significance of the question to be investigated; and c) the methods proposed for gathering the necessary data to address the research question. The use of APA format is mandatory for the write-up, and submissions should be made via D2L on the specified due date and time. It is important to adhere to the due date indicated on D2L, and unexcused late submissions without prior notification will not be accepted.

#### **GRADING SCALE**

A+ = 100-97; A = 93-96; A- = 92-88; B+ = 87-83; B = 82-78; B- = 77-73; C+ = 72-68; C = 67-63; C- = 62-58; D+ = 57-53; D = 52-50; F = 49%

To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded down to the nearest whole percentage

#### **INTEGRITY AND CONDUCT**

All members of the University community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the Statement on Principles of Conduct, and to comply with the University of Calgary Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures (available at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>).

##### **Academic misconduct**

Academic Misconduct refers to student behaviour which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-academic-misconduct-policy>

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>

#### **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION**

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may not be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy>) and requirements of the Copyright Act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials



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(including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT**

Graded assignments will be retained by the School for three months and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Final examinations will be kept for one calendar year and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Said material is exclusively available to the student and to the SLLLC staff requiring to examine it. Please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/access-information-privacy> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.

**ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at: <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations> .

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-accommodation-policy>

Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their Instructor or the School Director/Dean or to the designated contact person in their Faculty.

**FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES**

Have a question, but not sure where to start?

The Arts Students' Centre is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts. The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance they may require.

In addition to housing the Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs) and the Associate Dean (Teaching, Learning & Student Engagement), the Arts Students' Centre is the specific home to:

- Program advising
- Co-op Education Program
- Arts and Science Honours Academy
- Student Help Desk

Location: Social Sciences Room 102

Phone: 403-220-3580

Email: [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca)

Website: <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/current-students/undergraduate>

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them on the second floor of the Hunter Student Commons.

Contacts for the Students' Union Representative for the Faculty of Arts: [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca).

**INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES**

Devices such as laptops and tablets are allowed provided that they are used exclusively for instructional purposes and do not cause disruption to the instructor and to fellow students. Cellular telephones, blackberries and other mobile communication tools are not permitted and must be switched off.

**SUPPORT AND RESOURCES**

Links to information that is not course-specific related to student wellness and safety resources can be found on the Office of the Registrar's website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>.