



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

LING 467
 Experimental Psycholinguistics
 Winter 2021
 TR 12:30 - 13:45 (web based)

COURSE OUTLINE

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: Angeliki Athanasopoulou

OFFICE HOURS: TR 13:45 – 15:00 (Zoom info on D2L) or by appointment (send email)

E-MAIL: angeliki.athanasopou@ucalgary.ca
 Note that I will respond to e-mails within 48h during weekdays.

DESCRIPTION

Transforming an idea or thought to be communicated into speech and conversely interpreting speech by others into a meaningful and organized message that transmits information and intentions is an incredibly complex process that employs an interconnected series of systems in the human mind/brain. Psycholinguistics studies how humans acquire, produce, and comprehend language. More precisely it studies the systems, processes and mental representations involved in the production and comprehension of language.

In this course we will cover fundamental knowledge required by anyone (linguist or psychologist) who wants to study these processes and we will explore evidence from interdisciplinary basic research that aims to answer questions about them. We will examine different theories and models of language processing as well as classic and more recent experimental evidence in support of those models. Finally, we will talk about the methods and procedures used to carry out psycholinguistic research and carry out hands-on exercises employing some of these methods.

OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Methods
Students will familiarize themselves with relevant background, including theories, frameworks, and major debates in psycholinguistics.	Online discussion participation, in-class discussion participation
Students will construct and administer simple psycholinguistic experiments based on accessible experimental methods to test a hypothesis, gather sample data and summarize the results.	assignments, research proposal
Students will synthesize ideas and background covered to hold informed discussions on the predictions and implications of psycholinguistic theories as well as the evidence necessary to support one over the other.	Online discussion participation, in-class discussion participation, research proposal
Students will critically evaluate primary research journal articles and propose questions for future study.	Online discussion participation, in class discussion, research proposal
Students will write a motivated and plausible research proposal that is grounded in a brief literature review and proposes an experiment to test a clearly-defined hypothesis	Research proposal (final writeup)



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REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

Sedivy, J. (2019). Language in Mind: An Introduction to Psycholinguistics (Second Edition). Oxford University Press. (available at the University Bookstore and online)

Other required material will be posted on D2L.

RECOMMENDED COURSE MATERIALS

N/A

COURSE NOTES

The course includes both synchronous and asynchronous components. Every week, students are asked to engage in the following activities on their own (asynchronous components): (1) do the relevant readings, (2) watch the recorded lectures, (3) participate in the D2L discussion board or (4) do a quiz on D2L. Also, every Thursday, 12:30 - 13:45, there will be a live session on zoom (synchronous component), where we discuss the course materials. Students who cannot attend the live session will have the opportunity to watch its recording on D2L. Note that there will not be a live session on Feb 18, which is during the break.

Course work is administered through D2L. The specific dates for each item are listed below. Requests for an extension in advance of the deadline will be considered and if approved, will incur no penalties. Late submissions without advance notice, will incur a 10% deduction per day late.

Attendance at the live session is not required, but it is highly encouraged. Students' performance on assignments is typically negatively impacted by no/minimal attendance as we go through problem sets similar to those in assignments and students have an opportunity to practice problem-solving skills. Asynchronous participation in the discussion board is required and part of the final grade.

Guidelines for Zoom meetings: Students are asked to mute their audio at all times. To ask a question, use the chat function. All classes will be recorded and posted on D2L by the instructors. Students will not be permitted to record the lectures.

Technology requirements:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates
- A current and updated web browser
- Webcam/Camera (built-in or external)
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled
- Stable internet connection

ASSESSMENT

4 Assignments	x 10 points	= 40	(Jan 28, Feb 25, Mar 18, Apr 8)
10 Discussion entries	x 2 points	= 20	(Jan 21,28 Feb 4,11,25, Mar 4,11,18,25, Apr 1)
10 Quizzes	x 1 point	= 10	(Jan 19,26, Feb 2,9,23, Mar 2,9,16,23,30)
1 Final paper	x 30 points	= 30	(Apr 16)

There will be no final exam for this course.



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Assignments: Students will put together simple experiments in PsychoPy with the help of the instructor and TA and collect sample data with themselves as the sole participant. The aggregated and anonymous data will be looked at and analyzed in addition to journal articles. Students will write up a brief summary of the results and their implications. Students will be assessed on their understanding journal articles, the experimental process, the results, and how the results support one or another theoretical position.

Assignments must be submitted through D2L by 5pm the day they are due. The HW due dates are tentative and subject to change to a later date (you will be notified of any revisions to the due dates on D2L, via email, and in class). Unexcused late submissions without advance notice, will incur a 10% deduction per day late.

Discussion board entries: A substantial part of the course will focus on discussing the readings from a critical perspective. To facilitate this, students have to discuss the specified readings for that day on the Discussion Forum on D2L. The posts are due **by the end of the day** they are due. Students will be assessed on their participation level and understanding of the concepts discussed in each module. Unexcused late submissions without advance notice will not be accepted.

Quizzes: To help the students keep up with the readings and evaluate their understanding of important concepts and methodologies we discuss in class, short quizzes will be administered through D2L on the material of the relevant module. The quizzes may include multiple choice questions or short answer questions. The quizzes are due **by the end of the day** they are due. Unexcused late submissions without advance notice will not be accepted.

Final paper: The final will be a short paper (maximum 3,000 words, not including References) in which the students propose in some detail an experiment designed to investigate a question in psycholinguistics. Students will be assessed on the quality of the entire proposal in both form and content: a) The background and motivation for the study; b) the soundness and impact of the question that will be investigated; c) the methods proposed to collect the data necessary to answer the question. APA format is required. The write-up will be submitted through D2L **by 5pm on the due date**. Unexcused late submissions without advance notice will not be accepted.

No extra credit options.

GRADING SCALE

Criteria for Letter Grades

A+ grade: *Exceptional Performance*. An A+ grade indicates near perfect performance on multiple choice and short answer exams. For research papers/essays/course projects/presentations, an A+ grade is awarded for exceptional work deserving of special recognition and is therefore not a common grade.

A, A- Range: *Excellent Performance*. Superior understanding of course material. Written work is very strong in terms of critical and original thinking, content, organization, and the expression of ideas, and demonstrates student's thorough knowledge of subject matter.

B Range: *Good Performance*. Above average understanding of course material. Written work shows evidence of critical thinking and attention to organization and editing but could be improved in form and/or content.

C Range: *Satisfactory Performance*. Adequate understanding of course material. Knowledge of basic concepts and terminology is demonstrated. Written work is satisfactory and meets essential requirements but could be improved significantly in form and content. Note: All prerequisites for courses offered by the Faculty of Arts must be met with a minimum grade of C-.



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D range: Marginally meets standards. Minimal understanding of subject matter. Written work is marginally acceptable and meets basic requirements but requires substantial improvements in form and content. Student has not mastered course material at a level sufficient for advancement into more senior courses in the same or related subjects.

F grade: Course standards not met. Inadequate understanding of subject matter. Written work does not meet basic requirements. Student has not demonstrated knowledge of course material at a level sufficient for course credit.

Grading Scale

Table with 7 columns: Grade, Percentage Range 1, Grade, Percentage Range 2, Grade, Percentage Range 3, Grade, Percentage Range 4. Rows include A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, F.

As stated in the University Calendar, it is at the instructor's discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between two letter grades.

To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (e.g., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90% = A, but 89.4% will be rounded down to 89% = A-).

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

1. Plagiarism is a serious offence, the penalty for which is an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. Plagiarism exists when:

- a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test);
b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;
c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or
d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted."

Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

2. Cheating at tests or examinations includes but is not limited to dishonest or attempted dishonest conduct such as speaking to other candidates or communicating with them under any circumstances whatsoever; bringing into the examination room any textbook, notebook, memorandum, other written material or mechanical or electronic device not authorized by the examiner; writing an examination or part of it, or consulting any person or materials outside the confines of the examination room without permission to do so, or leaving answer papers exposed to view, or persistent attempts to read other students' examination papers.

3. Other academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, tampering or attempts to tamper with examination scripts, class work, grades and/or class records; failure to abide by directions by an instructor regarding the individuality of work handed in; the acquisition, attempted acquisition, possession, and/or distribution of examination materials or information not authorized by the instructor; the impersonation of



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another student in an examination or other class assignment; the falsification or fabrication of clinical or laboratory reports; the non-authorized tape recording of lectures.

4. Any student who voluntarily and consciously aids another student in the commission of one of these offences is also guilty of academic misconduct.

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/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf>) 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 (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 Department 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 department staff requiring to examine it. Please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip> 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/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf>.)

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 Department Head/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

Website: arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate.



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

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

INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Devices such as laptops, palmtops and smartbooks 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>.