

Psyc 321

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Lectures: Ellis 319
Monday 2:30 – 4:00
Thursday 4:00 – 5:30

Office Hour: any time by appointment

Course Summary: A general survey of the psychology of language. Topics will include speech perception, sentence processing, discourse processing, speech production, sentence planning, sign language, biological foundation of language, and the development of language in children. Applied psycholinguistics will be emphasized. The course material will be related to speech pathology and new developments in speech technology.

Course Evaluation:

Activities		24%
Readings		6%
Midterm	(November 5)	30%
Final Paper	(due December 5)	40%
Paper topics due November 12		

Activities

For this part of the course you are required to learn how to perform a number of psycholinguistic methods. The aim is to give you some "hands-on" experience in the experimental study of language. The activities include creating a voicing continuum for a speech perception experiment, creating a stimulus set for a lexical processing study, learning to eye track subjects for a sentence processing study, exploring conversation methodologies, examining translation techniques and 'programming' a psycholinguistic study. These 'activities' receive full marks if you learn the task and answer the question set on time. Four marks each.

Final Paper

The paper will be evaluated according to the following criteria (30 marks):

Research - comprehensiveness, accuracy, use of current and relevant research

Organization - clear identified units of thought, elaboration (adequate explanation)

Writing - correct English grammar and spelling, clarity and coherence

Your topic can be anything in psycholinguistics that you find interesting but the topic has to be approved by me (**note the deadline for topics: November 12, 2018**).

Maximum 10 pages (double spaced) plus references.

12 point, Times New Roman, minimum half-inch margins.

Midterm

The midterm will have the following format. The first section (A) of the exam will be composed of

Tasks

The six tasks will mostly be carried out during classes. The exception is the eye tracking task which will be scheduled for small groups to come to my laboratory separately. The aim of these tasks is for you gain hands-on experience of some of the experimental methods of psycholinguistics. I will provide the materials for the tasks but for two of them you will need to download some free software: Praat and Psychopy. Praat is designed for analysis of speech acoustics. Psychopy is an application that allows you to run a wide range of perceptual and cognitive experiments.

Praat: <http://www.fon.hum.uva.nl/praat/>
We will download the current version.



