

Language and Mind
Psychology V89.0027 / Linguistics V61.0028
Spring 2006

Instructors (both instructors will also have office hours by appointment)

Lisa Davidson, lisa.davidson@nyu.edu, 719 B'way, Room 421, office hours: Mon, 12-1
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Teaching Assistants (all TAs will also have office hours by appointment)

Rahul Balusu, rahul@nyu.edu, 719 Broadway, 4th Fl, Rm. 435A, office hours: Tues, 2:30-4:30
Andrea Cattaneo, andreacattaneo@bluewin.ch, 719 Broadway, 4th Fl, Rm. 444, office hours: Wed, 12-2

Lectures: Monday/ Wednesday 3:30pm – 4:45pm Silver 810

Recitation sections: Thursday, 12:30-1:45pm Silver 504 (Andrea Cattaneo)
Thursday, 3:30-4:45pm Silver 520 (Rahul Balusu)

This course is offered jointly by Psychology and Linguistics, presenting methodology and results from both fields. It is well known that language is a social phenomenon; this course will focus on some aspects of language that make its study more like a natural science. We discuss the structure of sentences (syntax), words (morphology), and sound shape (phonetics, phonology), and ask how these are acquired, mentally represented, and processed by humans.

Readings:

- 1) ODA: O'Grady, Archibald, Aronoff, & Rees-Miller, Contemporary Linguistics: An Introduction
- 2) Additional readings available on Blackboard

Course requirements:

- 1) Regular attendance at lectures and recitation sections
- 2) 9 assignments
- 3) Weekly readings, typically one chapter or one article
- 4) A midterm and a final exam

Grading: 35% assignments, 10% participation in recitation sections, 25% midterm, and 30% final

Assignments are posted on Blackboard after the Wednesday lecture and are due on the following Monday at the beginning of class. We will announce in class and/or on Blackboard when an assignment is handed out. Late assignments are not accepted. Nine assignments will be given throughout the term, and your assignment grade will be based on your best 8 assignments. Assignments that are obviously copied from someone else's receive no credit. *Your problem sets should be handed in to your recitation section leader.*

Both exams will be a mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions. The final exam covers primarily, but not exclusively, post-midterm material. There will be no make-up exams. You receive a zero grade for an exam missed without a written, valid excuse acceptable to the instructor (e.g. medical reasons).

Final note: If a personal situation arises during the semester that may affect your classroom performance, please come talk to us. If you wait until the end of the semester, we won't be able to help you. We are more likely to be able to address the situation if you speak to us when it happens.

Any student who may require special consideration (e.g. more time on homeworks, exams) because of a documented disability should arrange to meet with one of us soon.

DATE	TOPIC	READING
1/18	Introduction to linguistics and cognitive science	ODA, Chapter 1
1/23	Articulatory phonetics: How humans talk	ODA, Chapter 2
1/25	Acoustic phonetics	Yeni-Komshian, pp 90-105
1/30	Speech perception: From the sound signal to understanding	Yeni-Komshian, pp 105-127
2/1	Categorical perception: Is speech special?	Yeni-Komshian, pp 111-116
2/6	Neurolinguistic studies of categorical perception	no reading
2/8	Audio-visual integration: What cues do we use to understand speech?	Massaro & Stork 1998. Speech recognition and sensory integration. <i>American Scientist</i> 86:3, p236-245.
2/13	Reading: The relationship between words and sounds	Rayner & Pollatsek. 1989. The Psychology of Reading, Ch 3: Word perception
2/15	Dyslexia	Scientific American: 11/01/1996 Dyslexia
2/20: President's Day: NO CLASS		
2/22	Phonology: The mental representation of sounds	ODA, Chapter 3
2/27	First language acquisition of speech	ODA, Chapter 11
3/1	Critical period: Is language learning limited by age?	Newport, E.L. (2002). Critical periods in language development. In L. Nadel (Ed.), <i>Encyclopedia of Cognitive Science</i> .
3/6	Genie (film)	
3/8	MIDTERM	
3/13-15: SPRING BREAK		
3/20	Second language acquisition of speech	ODA, Chapter 12
3/22	Lexical access: The mental dictionary	ODA, Chapter 13, 435 – 441
3/27	Lexical access and meaning	ODA, Chapter 6, pp 201 – 204
3/29	Morphology: The building blocks of language	ODA, Chapter 4
4/3	Past tense debate	Pinker S, Ullman MT. 2002. The past and future of the past tense. <i>Trends in Cognitive Science</i> . Nov 1;6(11):456-463.

4/5	Genetic language disorders: SLI & Williams Syndrome	Gopnik, M. 1997. Language deficits and genetic factors. <i>Trends in Cognitive Sciences</i> , 1:1, p. 5-9
4/10	Oliver Sacks' Williams syndrome documentary	Scientific American: 12/01/1997 Williams Syndrome and the Brain
4/12	Syntax: The grammatical structure of language	ODA, Chapter 5
4/17	Syntactic processing	ODA, Chapter 13, 441-444 & 451-454
4/19	Language breakdown: Aphasia	ODA, Chapter 14
4/24	Sentence meaning, compositional phenomena	ODA, Chapter 6
4/26	Sentence meaning, noncompositional phenomena	no reading
5/1	FINAL (in class)	