

Language and Mind
Psychology V89.0027 / Linguistics V61.0028
Spring 2010

Instructors

Brian McElree, brian.mcelree@nyu.edu, Meyer Rm 860, office hrs: by appointment
Liina Pylkkänen, liina.pylkkanen@nyu.edu, Meyer Rm 277/ 10 WP Rm 605, office hrs: by appointment

Teaching Assistants (all TAs will also have office hours by appointment)

Tuuli Adams, tuuli.adams@nyu.edu, 10 Wash Pl. Rm 511, office hours: Mon 3-5pm.
Inna Livitz, ilivitz@nyu.edu, 10 Wash Pl. Rm 613, office hours: Mon 11-noon.

Lectures: Monday/ Wednesday 12:30pm – 1:45pm Silver 206
Recitation sections: Wednesday, 4:55-6:10pm 10 WP 104 (Inna Livitz)
Thursday, 12:30-1:45pm 48CS 103 (Tuuli Adams)
Thursday, 3:30-4:45pm MEYR 157 (Tuuli Adams)

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) OAAR: 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) Homework 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. Assignments will be given throughout the term, and your lowest grade will be dropped. 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.

SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC	READING
20-Jan	Introduction	
25-Jan	Linguistics and cognitive science	OAAR, Chapter 1
27-Jan	Colorless green ideas	
1-Feb	Modularity	
3-Feb	Categories of sounds	OAAR, Chapter 3
8-Feb	Speech perception I	Gleason & Ratner, <i>Psycholinguistics</i> , Ch. 3
10-Feb	Speech perception II	
15-Feb	PRESIDENT'S DAY (no class)	
17-Feb	Audio-visual integration	
22-Feb	Visual language & reading	OAAR, Chapter 16
24-Feb	Lexical access I	Starr, M.S., & Rayner, K. (2001). Eye movements during reading: Some current controversies. <i>Trends in Cognitive Science</i> , 5, 156-163.
1-Mar	Lexical access II	
3-Mar	Spoken word recognition	
8-Mar	Lexical access and meaning	OAAR, Chapter 6, pp 203 – 206
10-Mar	MIDTERM	
15-Mar	SPRING BREAK (no class)	
17-Mar	SPRING BREAK (no class)	
22-Mar	Morphology: The building blocks of language	OAAR, Chapter 4
24-Mar	Past tense debate	Pinker S, Ullman MT. (2002). The past and future of the past tense. <i>Trends in Cognitive Science</i> 11, 456-463.
29-Mar	Language acquisition I	OAAR, Chapter 10
31-Mar	Language acquisition II	OAAR, Chapter 11
5-Apr	Genetic language disorders: SLI & Williams Syndrome	Gopnik, M. (1997). Language deficits and genetic factors. <i>Trends in Cognitive Sciences</i> , 1, p. 5-9
7-Apr	Williams Syndrome cont.	Scientific American: 12/01/1997 Williams Syndrome and the Brain
12-Apr	Syntax: Grammatical structure	OAAR, Chapter 5
14-Apr	Language breakdown: Aphasia	OAAR, Chapter 13
19-Apr	Syntactic processing I	Pickering, M. (1999). Sentence Comprehension. In S. Garrod & M. Pickering (eds.) <i>Language Processing</i> .
21-Apr	Syntactic processing II	
26-Apr	Semantics I	OAAR, Chapter 6
28-Apr	Semantics II	Pylkkänen 2008: Mismatching Meanings in Brain and Behavior
3-May	FINAL	