
**Course Syllabus
Psychology 4011-01
Psychology of Language
Spring 2003**

Lecture: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:40 - 4:05
230 Psychology Building

Instructor: Dr. Roger Kreuz
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Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 4:15 – 5:15, and by appointment

Texts

Whitney, P. (1998). *The Psychology of Language*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.

Pinker, S. (1994). *The language instinct: How the mind creates language*. New York: Morrow.
(NOTE: Readings from Pinker will be supplied by the instructor)

Objectives

The purpose of this course is to provide a comprehensive overview of adult psycholinguistics, as well as an introduction to related fields such as historical and comparative linguistics and phonology.

Evaluation

Tests. There will be one exam during the eighth week of the term, and one during the final examination period. Each test will cover seven chapters from the Whitney and Pinker texts, and twelve class lectures. Each test will count as 30% of the final course grade.

The tests will consist of a number of short-answer essay questions. A set of study questions will be made available on March 4th for the first test, and April 24th for the second test. The test dates are fixed, and make-up tests will not be given for any reason.

Paper. A term paper on a psychology of language researcher will be due on April 29th. Students may choose to summarize the research of any psycholinguist appearing in the Psychology of Language Page of Links. This is a World Wide Web document at <http://www.psyc.memphis.edu/POL/POL.htm>. The paper should be a double-spaced, type-written document consisting of 12-14 pages of text. Sources must be referenced in APA style. The paper will count as 30% of the final course grade.

Paper proposal. A two- page typed paper proposal will be due on March 6th. Its purpose is to allow me to give you early feedback about your paper (e.g., the suitability of the researcher and area of research). The outline will count as 10% of the final course grade.

Class Schedule, Reading Assignments, and Test Dates

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Whitney</u>	<u>Pinker</u>
21 January	Introduction and overview	Ch. 3 (73-113)	—
23 January	Origins of language	Ch. 1 (2-30)	—
28 January	History of English and Indo-European	—	Ch. 8 (231-261)
30 January	Language change: Dialects, pidgins, creoles	—	Ch. 2 (25-54)
04 February	Writing systems	—	—
06 February	Phonology	Ch. 2 (31-44)	—
11 February	Morphology; acoustics	Ch. 5 (140-170)	—
13 February	<i>No class</i>		
18 February	Language production	Ch. 9 (271-300)	—
20, 25 Feb.	Syntax	Ch. 2 (45-59)	—
27 February	Semantics	Ch 2 (59-72)	—
04, 06 March	The mental lexicon	—	—
06 March	<i>Paper proposals due</i>		
11, 13 March	<i>No class – Spring Break</i>		
18 March	Midterm examination		
20 March	Sentence-level language	Ch. 7 (203-222)	—
25 March	Psychology of reading	Ch. 6 (171-202)	—
27 March	Comprehension; reading problems	Ch. 8 (234-270)	—
01 April	Pragmatics	—	—

Class Schedule, Reading Assignments, and Test Dates *continued*

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Whitney</u>	<u>Pinker</u>
03 April	Sociolinguistics	—	—
08 April	Figurative language	Ch. 7 (222-233)	—
10 April	Biological basis of language	Ch. 12 (371-390)	—
15 April	Language pathology	Ch. 12 (359-371)	—
17, 22 April	Language and thought	Ch. 4 (114-138)	—
24 April	Bilingualism	Ch. 11 (334-358)	—
29 April	Language in other species	—	Ch. 11 (332-369)
29 April	Papers due		
06 May	Final examination (1:00 - 3:00)		
