PSYCHOLINGUISTICS

CBS592
Fall 2024

Dr. Eric Pelzl
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Website: https://puzzl-e.github.io/cbs592/

Time: Tuesdays 18:30–21:20
Classroom: R508

Office hours: In-person or Zoom meetings can be scheduled via email

Course Description
Psycholinguists study the psychological and neurobiological factors that allow humans to acquire, understand and produce language. In this subject you will survey common techniques used in psycholinguistics and the kinds of research questions that are under investigation in this field. A major focus on the subject is on the interpretation, design, and implementation of psycholinguistic experiments; over the course of the semester, you will discuss real psycholinguistic experiments and plan and carry out your own experiments.

Schedule of course topics *(subject to change)*

1. Introduction to psycholinguistics (03-Sep)
2. Psychological mechanisms (10-Sep)

---- 17-SEP NO CLASS: *MIDAUTUMN FESTIVAL*----

3. Priming (24-Sep)

---- 01-OCT NO CLASS: *NATIONAL DAY* ----

4. Building a priming experiment (08-Oct)
5. Speech sounds and word recognition (15-Oct)
6. Sentence comprehension (22-Oct)
7. Eye-tracking (29-Oct)
8. Neurolinguistics (05-Nov)
9. Child language acquisition (12-Nov)
10. Second Language Acquisition & Bilingualism (19-Nov)
11. The Linguistic Relativity Debate & Review (26-Nov)

Expectations for study
This class meets once a week for 3 hours. The expectation is that you will spend from 3-6 hours per week outside of class on assignments and projects for the class.

Assessments
1. Assignments/Quizzes (40%)
This will be a very active class, so your preparation will be very important. Each week there will be a set of tasks to complete prior to class. Guidelines for the tasks will be given week-by-week on the course website: https://puzzl-e.github.io/cbs592/

The tasks will sometimes include conducting mini-experiment with your friends or classmates and submitting your data. Sometimes there will be brief writing assignments or review quizzes. All of these tasks will be graded on the ✓+/- system:

✓+: equal to an A (94.5%)
✓: equal to a B (83.6%)
✓-: equal to a D (60%)

Truly outstanding work could obtain an A+ (100%), but this will be a rare outcome. Except in the case of an emergency, assignments submitted after the beginning of the class session will be considered late and will receive a 20% deduction (e.g., a 94.5% would receive 74.5%). But late is better than never! **Incomplete assignments receive no credit** (0%) and will quickly diminish your final grade.

2. Priming Experiment (40%)

Over the course of the semester, you will design and run a priming study from start to finish. You will choose a question to investigate with priming, create stimuli, program the experiment, recruit participants and collect data, analyze the data, and write up a report of results. The timeline for much of this will be flexible. **You are encouraged to start early and are welcome to submit your project whenever it is complete.** The final deadline for this project is 24:00 on Monday the 25th of November.

3. Research Proposal (20%)

At the end of the semester, you will submit a research proposal. Further details will be provided later in the semester.

~~Extra credit~~: There will be no extra credit opportunities added later in the semester.

Classroom conduct

- You are expected to participate in activities and discussions in class. In these activities, please treat everyone with respect.
- The use of laptops, tablets, and other mobile devices is allowed during class, but please limit your use to class-related activities and refrain from creating distractions for other people in the class.
- There will be one or two breaks (of 5-10 minutes) during each session.

Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct will not be tolerated. Strict procedures for reporting plagiarism in both oral and written assignments will be enforced. If either is discovered, you will receive a zero for that portion of your final grade and the incident may be reported to university authorities.

The following examples are **all considered plagiarism**:

- Rearranging another writer's words and sentences, or taking sentences from a number of different sources and joining them together to pass them off as your own work
- Citing from any source (including Wikipedia or other online sources) without proper attribution (if you copy language exactly, proper attribution requires quotation marks, not just listing the source)

- Citing other people's work or ideas without proper attribution in oral presentations
- Submitting your own previous work that has already appeared at a conference, a journal or has been used for another class or exam.

Make sure that you read the PolyU "How to Avoid Plagiarism" booklet: http://edc.polyu.edu.hk/psp/plagiarism_booklet.pdf

The instructor reserves the right to issue an F grade in a specific assessment, of for the entire subject, if other cases of academic misconduct not specified here arise.

GenAI

The use of GenAI tools is allowed in preparing assignments in this subject. However, all the work students submit for assessment should be THEIR OWN ORIGINAL work. Asking GenAI to do the assignment and submitting the work generated by GenAI, in part or in whole, as one's own (even in paraphrased form) constitute an act of academic dishonesty; it is no different from asking another person to write the assignment or claiming others' ideas as one's own.

If a student has decided to use of GenAI tools, they are required to declare the use of such tools and how they have been used in the assignments in a form similar to the following sample. Students should also reference them in accordance with accepted academic conventions (e.g. APA or MLA styles).

"I/We declare that Generative AI tools have been used to prepare the submitted work. The Generative AI tools used and the manner in which they were used are as follows:_____"

Grades

Grades are criterion-based and not provided "on a curve": your grade is based on how you do on the weekly tasks, the experiment, and the project, not on how your work compares to your classmates' work. The table below shows how the points you earn from the assessments (see above) translate into letter grades. You must earn a D or higher to pass the subject.

Letter Grade	***GPA point***	***Raw Score***
A+	4.3	≥96.37
A	4.0	92.72 – 96.36
A-	3.7	89.08 – 92.71
B+	3.3	85.44 – 89.07
B	3.0	81.8 – 85.43
B-	2.7	78.16 – 81.79
C+	2.3	74.52 – 78.15
C	2.0	70.88 – 74.51
C-	1.7	67.24 – 70.87
D+	1.3	63.6 – 67.23
D	1.0	60 – 63.59
F	0.0	<60

Students with disabilities
I will strive to make the class accessible to everybody, but please contact me if there are any specific accommodations which you need, and which have not yet been made.

Useful resources
PolyU CILL writing tips:
http://www2.elc.polyu.edu.hk/cill/writing.htm PolyU "How to Avoid Plagiarism" booklet:
http://edc.polyu.edu.hk/psp/plagiarism_booklet.pdf

A tip for avoiding plagiarism in paper summaries/critiques:
When writing about a paper (e.g., to write a summary or a critique), do it without the paper in front of you. Read the paper, write down some notes about what the important points were or what you thought about the paper, and then put it away for a few hours, so that when you come back you are more likely to write about it in your own words.

PolyU personal counseling services:
https://www.polyu.edu.hk/sao/cs/counselling/general.html

For students with disabilities:
http://www.polyu.edu.hk/dso/resources/student- with-disability