**BCS152: Language & Psycholinguistics (4 Cr.)** Fall 2018

Time: Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:00 - 3:15pm

Room: Strong Auditorium (Lower level)

Course Instructors: Dr. Chung-Lin Martin Yang ([chung-lin.yang@rochester.edu](mailto:chung-lin.yang@rochester.edu))

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Office Hours:

Dr. Yang: Thursdays 1:30-2:30pm, Fridays 1:30-2:30pm (effective 11/29)

Wednesday Bushong: Wednesdays 10-12 at Meliora Hall 421

Katherine Trice: Tuesdays 1-3pm at Meliora 428

Nicole Vieyto: Fridays 12-2pm at Meliora 428

Sanoe Lanias: Wednesdays 4:50-5:50pm at Meliora 428

Course description: The goal of this course is to introduce you the psychological and neuropsychological processes involved in language comprehension, production and acquisition. This course will also provide a solid foundation for those who want to further investigate a wide range of topics in psycholinguistics. Topics to be covered in this course include language and thought, cognitive mechanisms underlying language processing and acquisition, speech perception, production, word recognition, sentence processing, brain and language, language impairment and so on.

Required readings:

Harley, Trevor (2014). *The* *Psychology of Language: from data to theory.* Wadsworth.

Supplemental readings will be posted on Blackboard. Please check it before each class meeting.

Course requirements:

1. **Participation and attendance (15%)**: Active participation in discussions and class activities are expected. Attendance will be taken randomly throughout the semester. If for some reason you cannot come to the class, please provide a “signed” and printed memo accompanied by necessary document(s) (e.g., a memo from the doctor, wedding program, etc.).
2. **Quizzes (20%)**: Four quizzes, which include multiple-choice and/or true/false questions, will be administered on Blackboard. The purpose of these quizzes is to assess how much you understand the course topics and readings.
3. **Homework Assignments (20%):** The assignments may involve some degree of group work. Due dates can be found in the course schedule below.
4. **Midterm (20%) and final (25%):** A closed-book midterm and a final exam will be administered in class. The dates can be found in the class schedule below. Both exams will include multiple-choice, true/false, and/or short-answer questions. The final exam is cumulative, but the topics after the midterm carry more weight (~ 70-80%) than the materials before midterm. Study guides will be posted on Blackboard.

**Class policies:**

1. Academic misconduct

All assignments and activities associated with this course must be performed in accordance with the University of Rochester's Academic Honesty Policy. More information is available at: [www.rochester.edu/college/honesty](http://www.rochester.edu/college/honesty)

1. Special accommodation: If you need special accommodation, please let the course instructors know. We will do our best to suit your needs.

1. Mobile devices

Please silent your mobile devices. No cellphone/smartphone or any other entertainment devices are allowed while class is in session.

**Class schedule (tentative):**

(It is expected that you read the readings before each class meeting.)

Wednesday lectures

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| **Week** | **Date** | **Topic** | **Readings** |
| 1 | 8/29 | Course requirements;  Introduction | Ch. 1. p. 3-8 |
| 2.1 | 9/3 Labor Day (No class) |  |  |
| 2.2 | 9/5 | What is psycholinguistics? | Ch. 1. p. 9-16,  22 (themes & controversies) -27 |
| 3.1 | 9/10 | Linguistic descriptions | Ch. 2. p. 30-37 |
| 3.2 | 9/12 | The origin of language and communication | Ch. 3. p. 52 - 65 |
| 4.1 | 9/17 | Language and thought | Ch. 3. p. 88 - 99 |
| 4.2 | 9/19 | **Homework 1 due**  Language production | Ch. 13. p. 396 - 409 |
| 5.1 | 9/24 | **Quiz 1**  Language production | Ch. 13. p. 410-415, 426 (Phonological encoding) - 432 |
| 5.2 | 9/26 | Speech perception and  Spoken word recognition | Ch. 9. p. 258 - 270 |
| 6.1 | 10/1 | **Homework 2 due**  Spoken word recognition | Ch. 9. p. 270 - 281 |
| 6.2 | 10/3 | Adaptation during speech perception and production | Kraljic & Samuel (2006) |
| 7.1 | 10/8 | Neural basis of adaptation during speech perception |  |
| 7.2 | 10/10 | **Quiz 2**  Visual word recognition | Ch. 6. p. 167 - 178 |
| 8.1 | 10/15 Fall break |  |  |
| 8.2 | 10/17 | **~~Homework 3 due~~**  Visual word recognition and dyslexia | Ch. 6. p. 183 – 192, Ch. 7. p. 220 - 225 |
| 9.1 | 10/22 | **Midterm** |  |
| 9.2 | 10/24 | Syntax and sentence processing | Ch. 2. p. 37-42 |
| 10.1 | 10/29 | Sentence processing | Ch. 10. p. 287-298 |
| 10.2 | 10/31 | Sentence processing **Homework 3 Due** | Ch. 10. |
| 11.1 | 11/5 | Comprehension | Ch. 12. p. 360 - 370 |
| 11.2 | 11/7 | Comprehension and understanding discourse | Ch. 12. p. 371 - 375 & Ch. 14. p. 450 - 458 |
| 12.1 | 11/12 | **Quiz 3**  Audience design and common ground in comprehension | Wu & Keysar (2007) |
| 12.2 | 11/14 | **Homework 4 due**  Audience design and common ground in production | Heller, Grodner, & Tanenhaus (2008) |
| 13.1 | 11/19 | First language acquisition | Ch. 4. p. 104 – 114, 119 - 124 |
| 13.2 | 11/21 Thanksgiving break |  |  |
| 14.1 | 11/26 | First language acquisition | Ch. 4. p. 125 – 128, 136 – 143, Ch. 3. p. 78 - 83 |
| 14.2 | 11/28 | **Quiz 4**  Cognitive processes and second language acquisition | Ch. 5. p. 153 – 159, Ch. 15. p. 460 – 463, 468 - 472 |
| 15.1 | 12/3 | Individual differences in second language acquisition | Darcy, Park & Yang (2015) |
| 15.2 | 12/5 | Brain and language | Ch. 3. p. 67 (Biological basis) – 77  Supplemental readings |
| 16.1 | 12/10 | Brain and language | Supplemental readings |
| 16.2 | 12/12 | Aphasia | Ch. 13. p. 433-445 |
|  | **12/17 4pm** | **Final Exam** |  |