## University of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee Campus Department of Psychology

EXP 4640: PSYCHOLOGY OF LANGUAGE (FALL 2006)

**Meeting Time and Place:** Wednesdays 12:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m. Room

**Prerequisites:** PSY 3213 with grade of "C" or better or CI

**Instructor:** Christine Ruva, Ph.D. Office: C 249 Phone: 359-4629

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Web Site: <a href="http://luna.cas.usf.edu/~ruva/index.htm">http://luna.cas.usf.edu/~ruva/index.htm</a>

Office Hours: Wednesdays 11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. and 5:00 pm – 5:45 pm, or by

appointment.

**Required Texts.** Harley, T. (2001). *The psychology of language: From data to theory* (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed).

New York: Psychology Press.

Altmann, G.T. (1997). The ascent of babel. New York: Oxford University Press

Inc.

<u>Course Introduction.</u> This course is designed explore language from a psychological perspective - Psycholinguistics. We will examine the structure, function, development, and history of language. We will also explore the research methods in Psycholinguistics as well as the application of this research to "real-world" problems. Students will be given a broad overview of the relevant topics, problems, and methodologies in the field of Psycholinguistics.

<u>Course Goals and Objectives.</u> The main goal of this course is to provide students with knowledge and skills that will enable them to better understand the scientific study of language and its application. Students upon completion of this course should be able to:

- (a) define relevant terms used in the field;
- (b) be able to answer the question "What is human language?"
- (c) describe both sides of the debate on whether animals have language;
- (d) demonstrate knowledge of the components/structure of language and what they give us;
- (e) describe the research methods and theories in Psycholinguistics;
- (f) describe the application Psycholinguistic research to specific real world problems;
- (g) describe the history of the study of language;
- (h) demonstrate knowledge of research and theory in both language perception and language production;
- (i) demonstrate knowledge of language development theories, research, and developmental milestones.

**Readings and Lectures.** The tentative schedule tells you which chapters you are responsible for and when to read chapters. Lectures and multi-media presentations will supplement the texts and will not necessarily follow along with the chapters.

**Exams.** There will be **three** exams. The three examinations will cover the assigned readings in the text, lectures, multi-media presentations, and classroom demonstration and exercises. Exams 1 through 3 will cover only the material in those sections. Exams will consist of **ESSAY** and **SHORT ANSWER questions**. If you are ill or have some other documentable, legitimate reason for missing an exam (see excused absences below), you may be permitted to take a make-up. However, you **must** notify me **NO LATER THAN 10:00 A.M.** the day of the exam (or earlier, see excused absences) or you will get **NO CREDIT FOR THE EXAM**.

During exams, you will only be permitted to have pens, pencils, and erasers at your desk. Please leave refreshments, book bags, and other materials in the front of the classroom or do not bring them at all. Turn off all cellular phones and beepers and please do not wear hats. You **may not leave the room** during an exam.

Excused Absences will be given for illness only with a doctor's excuse (this illness must be severe enough to prevent you from taking the exam – Your instructor alone will determine if your illness meets this criterion), for the death of an immediate family member, for school sanctioned functions, or for observance of religious holy days. Doctor's excuse require that the student fill out a "Verification of Visit" form at the health center. Something similar should be done for students using private physician services and must state specifically what the illness was and the date/s of the illness. Death of an immediate family member requires a copy of the death certificate. Students who anticipate the necessity of being absent from class due to the observation of a major religious observance or a school-sanctioned event must provide notice of the date(s) to the instructor, in writing, by the second class meeting. If no notice is given the student will get no credit for the exam.

<u>Cheating</u> - DON'T!! Academic dishonesty will result in an "FF" for the course and a recommendation for disciplinary action by USF.

Quizzes. There will be a total of 10 QUIZZES worth 10 points each. The 10 quizzes will be based on the assigned reading material for that day. Only 8 of these quizzes will count toward your total points. NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES WILL BE GIVEN. If a student misses a quiz for any reason, that quiz will be scored as a ZERO and, most likely, will be one of the quiz grades that are dropped. If the student takes more than the 8 required quizzes his/her grades on the additional quiz/quizzes will be multiplied by .50 and then added to his/her total points as extra credit. These quizzes will be given at the beginning of class and could be in either multiple choice or short answer format.

Graded Assignments. Each student is required to complete 5 graded assignments worth 20 points each. Only 4 of these assignments will count toward your grade. If a student completes all 5 of these assignments Dr. Ruva will multiply the assignment that received the lowest grade by .50 and then add these points to the student's total points as extra credit. These assignments will be given on the dates indicated on the tentative course schedule. Only students present during the class period on which an assignment is given will be eligible to complete that assignment. Therefore, if you are absent on the date that the assignment is given you cannot complete the assignment and there will be NO MAKEUP ASSIGMENTS GIVEN. If time permits, these assignments will be completed during the class period in which they were assigned. If time does not permit completing the assignment during class time then the assignment is due at the beginning of the next scheduled class meeting. LATE ASSIGMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. If an assignment is completed outside of class time then students must TYPE THE ASSIGNMENT. Hand written assignments will only be accepted for those completed during class time. If a hand-written assignment is deemed unreadable by Dr. Ruva then the student must type the assignment and hand it into Dr. Ruva at the beginning of the next class meeting.

<u>Academic Honesty</u>. Academic honesty is an essential component of the academic process. Both students and faculty are expected to "live up to the highest ethical standards with respect to the origin of ideas, the accuracy of data, and like matters" (Bryant, 2002).

**Academic Dishonesty:** Per the USF Undergraduate Catalog (p. 47-49) Academic Dishonesty includes **PLAGIARISM**, which is defined as:

"literary theft and consists of the unattributed quotation of the **exact words** of a published text, or the unattributed borrowing of **original ideas by paraphrase** from a published text. On written papers for which the student employs information gathered from books, articles, web sites, or oral sources, each direct quotation, as well as **ideas and facts that are not generally known to the public at large**, or **the form**, **structure**, **or style of a secondary source** must be attributed to its author by means of the appropriate citation procedure."

If I suspect plagiarism, I will submit student assignments to **Turnitin.com**. **Any plagiarism in this course** will result in an "FF" for the class and a recommendation for disciplinary action by USF.

<u>Grading.</u> Grading for this course will be on an accumulated point scale as follows: Exams 1 through 3 are each worth <u>100</u> points, the 8 quizzes are worth a total of <u>80</u> points, and your graded assignments worth a total of <u>80</u> points. Therefore, the total possible points a student can earn in the class (not including extra credit) are <u>460</u>.

$$A = 414+$$
  $A = 405-413$   $B^{+} = 391-404$   $B = 368-390$   $B^{-} = 359-367$   $C^{+} = 345-358$   $C = 322-344$   $C^{-} = 313-321$   $D^{+} = 299-312$   $D = 276-298$   $D^{-} = 267-275$   $F = 266$  and below

## --- NOVEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup> IS THE LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY ---

COURSE WORK	PERCENT OF TOTAL POINTS	
Exams	65%	
Quizzes	17.5%	
Graded Assignments	17.5%	

Extra Credit. You can earn extra-credit points (up to 10 points) by taking more than the 8 required quizzes (see explanation above). You can also earn extra-credit points (up to 10 points) by completing all 5 of the graded assignments (see explanation above). I will also accept up to 10 extra-credit points from the Psychology Department's sponsored research studies. You are responsible for signing up for experiments and monitoring your extra-credit points. Note that failure to attend experiments, for which you have signed up for, will result in NEGATIVE POINTS unless you cancel your appointment prior to your scheduled time. Also note that most of these experiments will take place in Tampa. Sign up for these research studies can be found on the web at the following address: <a href="http://usf.experimentrak.net/">http://usf.experimentrak.net/</a>. For more information on this opportunity and a description of your rights and obligations as a research participant you can visit the following web site: <a href="http://www.cas.usf.edu/psychology/participate.htm">http://www.cas.usf.edu/psychology/participate.htm</a>

Americans with Disabilities Act. Any student who needs an accommodation for a disability should let this instructor know immediately if necessary or immediately following this class. It is the student's responsibility to let this instructor know of any disability that may prohibit or inhibit his/her functioning in this class. The student is encouraged to contact the Office of Disabled Student Academic Services (941-359-4330) which provides numerous services for disabled students (e.g., reader services and note takers). Once notified of a student's disability this instructor will make available any accommodations necessary to ensure that the student receives equal access to class activities.

<u>Student Responsibilities.</u> Every student is responsible for all materials in assigned readings and provided in class. Students are expected to come to class on time and prepared which means that reading assignments have been completed so that each student can actively participate in class. I strongly suggest that you get the names and phone numbers of at least 2 classmates. This will be helpful in forming study groups, getting help on assigned readings and clarifying lecture content.

Note Taking & Recording. You are encouraged to take notes on the lectures and are permitted to tape-record class sessions for your own use. However, you are not permitted to take notes or tape-record for purposes of sale or distribution. Failure to comply with this rule will result in referral to the Student Affairs Disciplinary Office.

## TENTATIVE OUTLINE FOR LECTURES AND READINGS PSYCHOLOGY OF LANGUAGE

Date	Topics	Assigned Readings
8/30	Introduction to the Psychology of Language: History & Methods	Chapter 1 (Harley)
9/06	Language/Speech Perception ◆	Chapter 2 (Harley)
9/13	Do Animals Have Language?◆  Graded Assignment #1 will be assigned	Chapter 3 pp. 47-59 (Harley)
9/20	Biological Basis of Language & Critical Periods ◆ Graded Assignment #2 will be assigned	Chapter 3 pp. 60-70 (Harley) Chapters 12 & 13 (Altmann)
9/27	EXAM 1	
10/04 & 10/11	Language Development 1: Components Learned, Categorical Perception, & Prebirth Learning ◆ Graded Assignment #3 will be assigned	Chapter 4 (Harley) Chapters 2 & 3 (Altmann)
10/18	Language Development 2: Bilingualism & Special Circumstances ◆ Graded Assignment #4 will be assigned	Chapter 4 (pp. 70-88) (Harley) Chapter 5 (Harley) Chapter 3 (Altmann)
10/25	Reading ◆	Chapter 7 (Harley) Chapter 11 (Altmann)
11/01	EXAM 2	
NOVEMBER 3 <sup>RD</sup> IS THE LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY		
11/08	Sentence Processing ◆	Chapter 9 (Harley) Chapter 7 (Altmann)
11/15	NO CLASS – OUTSIDE ACTIVITY ASSIGNED	
11/22	Word Meaning ◆	Chapter 10 (Harley) Chapter 6 (Altmann)
11/29	Language Production ♦  Graded Assignment #5 will be assigned	Chapter 12 (Harley) Chapter 10 (Altmann)
12/06	EXAM 3	

**Note:** ♦ denotes that there will be a quiz at the beginning of class on this date.