Ling 130 Psycholinguistics

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Course Objectives

The course is aimed to be a survey of current research in psycholinguistics. It examines experimental evidence from language acquisition, from normal language processing, from performance of brain-damaged individuals, as well as from neural network models. It provides an overview from word to sentence level of models of language comprehension and production. Finally, it discusses the impact of brain imaging studies on the relation between functional and neuro-anatomical architectures of the language faculty.

Course Requirements

The course requirements consist of two exams (mid-term and final), a term paper, and active class participation. The form of the exams will consist primarily of short-answer questions. Exams will not be cumulative in terms of specific facts, although good performance on the second exam will depend on mastery of the first part of the course. Class participation is required. You are expected to have done the assigned readings before coming to class. A star in the syllabus indicates a required reading. Effective class participation, asking pertinent questions and making appropriate comments, depends on having read the materials assigned for class. To help you in reading critically the assigned material I encourage you to hand in a question/comment or two at least once each week. I will draw from the questions/comments for class discussion. Your grade for the course will be computed as follows:

Exams: 60% (30% each)  
Term paper: 40% (due the day before reading period)

Course Outline

The Basics

1 Introduction and Overview

*Psychology of Language (POL): Chapter 1.*
**Biological basis of language**
*POL: Chapter 13.

**Linguistic principles**
*POL: Chapter 2.

**Psychological mechanisms**
*POL: Chapter 3.

**Acquiring language**

**Language acquisition I**
*POL: pp. 248-293.

**Language acquisition II**
Comprehending language – Sounds & Words

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*Speech perception*
*POL: pp. 70-84

8

*Auditory word recognition*
*POL: pp. 84-90; 117-127.

9

*Visual word perception & recognition*
*POL: 90-100.

10

*Recognizing complex words: morphology*
*POL: pp.102-105.
Understanding meanings and concepts

11 Meaning, concepts and categories
*POL: pp. 105-117.

12 Meaning, concepts and categories – impairments of.

13 Midterm Exam

Understanding sentences

14 Sentence comprehension
*POL: 120-153.
**Sentence comprehension and its disorders**  
*POL: 156-172.*  

**Production - sentences**

**Sentence production**  
*POL: Chapter 8.*  

**Production - words**

**Lexical access in speech production**  
Cambridge Univ Press, US.  

**Disorders of lexical access**
*Caramazza, A. (1997). “How many levels of processing are there in lexical access?”. *Cognitive Neuropsychology*, 14, pp. 177-208.

**Reading and reading disorders**

**Spelling and spelling disorders**

**Brain Imaging I**

**Sounds and words**
Brain imaging II

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Concepts and sentences


23

Review, first part of the course.

24

Review, second part of the course.

25

Final Exam