

San José State University
Linguistics and Language Development
LING 161, Psycholinguistics, Sec. 01, Fall, 2018

Course and Contact Information

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| Instructor: | Hahn Koo |
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| Office Hours: | MTWR 1:30 PM – 2:00 PM |
| Class Days/Time: | TR 12:00 PM – 1:15 PM |
| Classroom: | Clark Hall 242 |
| Prerequisites: | LING 101 |

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Copies of course materials (e.g. syllabus, assignment handouts, reading materials) will be available at <http://linguistics.sjsu.edu/~hkoo/teaching/ling161/index.html>.

Course Description

Psychology of language, child language acquisition, language disorders, representation of language in the brain, cognitive aspects of linguistic communication, theories of language on linguistics and psychology.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

We will explore and aim to understand how humans learn, comprehend, and produce language.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand and evaluate theories and hypotheses of language acquisition and processing.
2. Design and conduct experiments to test linguistic hypotheses.

Required Texts/Readings

All reading materials will be made available on the course website.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Aside from a final essay (see below), you are expected to complete 8 practicum assignments (40% of final grade), take two in-class exams (30% of final grade) and give one in-class presentation (15% of final grade). Before I describe them in detail note that “Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

1. Practicum assignments (5 points × 8 = 40 points)

We will have practicum sessions on most Tuesdays. You will practice how to plan, design, and conduct experiments as well as interpret their results. There will roughly be one assignment per practicum session: 8 out of 9, to be precise. The assignments help you achieve CLO 2.

2. Exams (15 points \times 2 = 30 points)

There will be two in-class exams to assess your understanding of the materials covered in class. Each exam will consist of three short essay questions. The exams are designed to assess whether you have achieved CLO 1.

3. Presentation (15 points)

You will find a scholarly psycholinguistic paper that addresses a topic of your interest and discuss it in front of the class. The paper can be on any topic we covered in class. To find papers that match your interest, search <https://scholar.google.com> or browse journals such as *Cognition*, *Cognitive Science*, *Journal of Memory and Language*, *Journal of Experimental Psychology*, and *Language, Cognition and Neuroscience* (formerly *Language and Cognitive Processes*). Prepare your presentation to be 15 - 20 minutes long. As you prepare for your presentation, you will get to deepen your understanding of theories and hypotheses discussed in psycholinguistics, so this assignment helps you achieve CLO 1.

Final Examination or Evaluation

You will write a final essay that builds on the presentation you gave in class: You've read and discussed one paper on the topic of your interest. Read 2-3 more papers that address the same topic but propose different views about the topic. In your essay, state the research question (as you did for the presentation), introduce the papers to be discussed (including the one you presented), and compare and contrast their perspectives. Your essay should be 1500-2000 words long. The assignment is worth 15 points, i.e. the remaining 15% of your final grade. As is the case with the presentation, this assignment helps you achieve CLO 1.

Grading Information

Based on the total score by the end of the semester, your grade will be determined using the following table:

| Score(s) | Grade | Score(s) | Grade | Score(s) | Grade |
|----------|-------|----------|-------|----------|-------|
| 100 | A+ | 76 - 81 | B | 52 - 57 | C- |
| 94 - 99 | A | 70 - 75 | B- | 46 - 51 | D+ |
| 88 - 93 | A- | 64 - 69 | C+ | 40 - 45 | D |
| 82 - 87 | B+ | 58 - 63 | C | 34 - 39 | D- |
| | | | | 0 - 33 | F |

Classroom Protocol

Do not disrupt the class. Limit your activities to those pertinent to class. Be courteous to everyone in class.

University Policies

See the relevant policies such as those on academic integrity, accommodations, etc. at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>.

LING 161 Psycholinguistics, Fall, 2018, Course Schedule

The schedule below is subject to change with fair notice via announcements in class.

Course Schedule

| Week | Date | Topics and Assignments |
|------|-------|--|
| 1 | 8/21 | Introduction |
| 1 | 8/23 | How to read a journal article |
| 2 | 8/28 | Language acquisition: The critical period hypothesis |
| 2 | 8/30 | Practicum 1: Background |
| 3 | 9/4 | Language acquisition: Phonology |
| 3 | 9/6 | Practicum 2: IRB; Assignment 1 (due 9/13) |
| 4 | 9/11 | Language acquisition: Morphology |
| 4 | 9/13 | Practicum 3: Materials I; Assignment 2 (due 9/20) |
| 5 | 9/18 | Language acquisition: Semantics |
| 5 | 9/20 | Practicum 4: Materials II; Assignment 3 (due 9/27) |
| 6 | 9/25 | Language acquisition: syntax |
| 6 | 9/27 | Review for Exam I |
| 7 | 10/2 | Exam I |
| 7 | 10/4 | Practicum 5: Procedures I; Assignment 4 (due 10/11) |
| 8 | 10/9 | Language processing: Speech perception |
| 8 | 10/11 | Practicum 6: Procedures II; Assignment 5 (due 10/18) |
| 9 | 10/16 | Language processing: Speech production |
| 9 | 10/18 | Practicum 7: Running the experiment; Assignment 6 (due 11/2) |
| 10 | 10/23 | Language processing: Word processing |
| 10 | 10/25 | Language processing: Sentence processing |
| 11 | 10/30 | Bilingual language processing |
| 11 | 11/2 | Practicum 8: Analysis I; Assignment 7 (due 11/8) |
| 12 | 11/6 | The Sapir-Whorf hypothesis |
| 12 | 11/8 | Practicum 9: Analysis II; Assignment 8 (due 11/15) |
| 13 | 11/13 | Aphasia and dyslexia; Neurolinguistics |
| 13 | 11/15 | Review for Exam II |

| Week | Date | Topics and Assignments |
|-------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| 14 | 11/20 | Exam II |
| 15 | 11/27, 11/29 | Student presentations |
| 16 | 12/4, 12/6 | Student presentations |
| Final | 12/14 (Fri) | Email me your final essay by 11:59 PM |