Psychology 520: Psycholinguistics

Susan E. Brennan

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Fall 2005

Tuesdays, 10:00-1:00

Psychology A, Room 256

We will examine topics in the psychology of language, including: language and thought, the production and comprehension of utterances, discourse, pragmatics, speech errors, reading, the mental lexicon, paralinguistic aspects, children's acquisition of a first language, and applications. We will consider theories and evidence from psychology, along with viewpoints from linguistics and computational linguistics.

Class will meet once per week. Attendance, both physical and mental, is expected; if you need to miss a class, please arrange this with me in advance. Each week there will be assigned readings to complete before class. Assignments consist of very short (2-3 page) papers and involve working with text and conversational data. Approx. 1/3 of your grade will be based on the take-home midterm exam, approx. 1/3 on the four assignments, and approx. 1/3 on the final paper. Your grade will also take into account the quality of your class participation.


REQUIRED READINGS: A selection of articles and chapters, listed on the next few pages, available on-line

TOPICS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 30</td>
<td>Introduction and overview</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 6</td>
<td>Language and thought</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 13</td>
<td>Speech perception and word recognition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 20</td>
<td>Word meaning and the mental lexicon</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 27</td>
<td>Sentence processing</td>
<td>(Assignment #1 due)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 4</td>
<td>Rosh Hashanah (no class)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 11</td>
<td>Information, discourse structure &amp; referring</td>
<td>(Assignment #2 due)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 18</td>
<td>Pragmatics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 25</td>
<td>Speaking</td>
<td>(Assignment #3 due)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 1</td>
<td>Conversation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 8</td>
<td>Pointing, pausing, tune, and turn</td>
<td>(MIDTERM DUE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 15</td>
<td>Text processing and discourse</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 22</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 29</td>
<td>Language acquisition</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 6</td>
<td>Applications of psycholinguistics</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 13</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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*(Have paper topic approved)*

*(Assignment #4 due)*

*(TERM PAPER DUE)*
Optional Session: Just Enough Statistics

A session will be scheduled for those who need or wish to have a brief introduction to statistical methods for language experiments. If you’re not trained in stats, you should aim for an intuitive grasp of how to read and report experimental results, as well as know how to recognize some common mistakes.

Note: If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may affect your ability to carry out assigned course work, we urge you to contact the staff in the Disabled Student Services office (DSS). Its address is Rm.128 of ECC (Education Communication Center) and phone numbers 632-6748 or TDD 632-6749. DSS will review your concerns and determine, with you, what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation of disability is confidential.

READINGS*

*Downloads are for personal use only, and may not be used for public distribution or in any way that violates copyright law.

Aug 30 Introduction and overview


LEVELT, Ch. 1: The speaker as information processor

Optional:


Gazzaniga, M. (1998). Language and the brain (Ch. 8). In

Sep 6 Language and thought


**Sep 13**

**Speech perception and word recognition**


Optional:


LEVELT, Ch. 6: Lexical entries and accessing lemmas

*Handout for Assignment #1*

**Sep 20**

**Word meaning and the mental lexicon**


Sep 27 Sentence processing


Optional:


LEVELT, Ch. 5: Surface structure

Assignment #1 due
Handout for Assignment #2

Oct 4    No class – Rosh Hashanah

Oct 11   Information, discourse structure, and referring

LEVELT, Ch. 3: The structure of messages (pp. 70-106); Ch. 4: The generation of messages (pp. 107-160); part of Ch. 7: The encoding of topic, 7.4 & Cohesive encoding, 7.3 (pp. 260-282).

Assignment #2 due

Handout for Assignment #3

Oct 14-16  SPECIAL EVENT – MORRIS SYMPOSIUM ON LANGUAGE & COGNITION

Please make every possible effort to attend!

See http://www.linguistics.stonybrook.edu/events/nyct05/index.htm for details.

Optional background readings:


Oct 18    Pragmatics


Optional:


LEVELT: Ch. 2: The speaker as interlocutor

**Oct 25**  
**Speaking and slips of the tongue**


LEVELT: Section 9.5, pp. 351-363. *(Also: Review pp. 214-222 from Chapter 6.)*

Optional:


*Assignment #3 due by Sunday, October 30 at the very latest.*

**Nov 1**  
**Conversation, common ground, and audience design**


**Midterm Exam (take-home Wednesday, Nov. 2)**

**Nov 8**  
**Paralinguistic aspects of language use**


Review: LEVELT, Section 2.1.2 (pp. 31-39): Turn-taking, engagement, and disengagement
Optional: LEVELT, Ch. 12: Self monitoring and self repair.

Midterm Exam due Wednesday, Nov. 9

Nov 15 Text processing and discourse (Guest lecture by Richard Gerrig)


Nov 22 Reading


Handout for Assignment #4

Child language example (.wav file) for Assignment #4

Nov 29 Language acquisition


Dec 6 Applying psycholinguistics in the real world (Last class)


Optional:


Shuy, R. (2 chapters). Language Crimes. *(available in hardcopy from S. Brennan)*

Assignment #4 due.

Term paper due Dec 13

**Interesting and Amusing Language Links:**

The Linguistic Data Consortium

(Stony Brook has been a member since 1996; we have access to their corpora.)

Accent Archive, by Steven Weinberger

  ⟨ Native English Dialects

  ⟨ Non-Native Accents

Latent Semantic Analysis – take it for a test drive!

(Follow the links -> Products -> Intelligent Essay Assessor -> Scoring Content based Essays.

The Right Words – an interesting site from New Zealand about English writing

  ⟨ http://www.rightwords.co.nz/wwwindex.html

  ⟨ http://www.rightwords.co.nz/backnews.html

Gesture focus group: Joins us to discuss articles on gesture and communication Tuesdays at 5:00!