

Psychology 145 – Psychology of Language

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Office Hours: Thursday 2-3, or by appointment
Mandeville Coffee Cart

Text: Carroll, D. (2004). *Psychology of Language* (4th edition).
Thompson/Wadsworth Publishing.

Class Website: <http://psy.ucsd.edu/~slevc/psy145/> (note: no www)

Course Description:

Simply by producing and detecting vibrations in the air or squiggles on a page, we can communicate complex and arbitrary ideas. In this course, we will begin to answer how we accomplish this feat by taking a cognitive psychological approach to the study of language processing. This course will be an overview of a variety of topics relevant to psycholinguistic research, including how we comprehend and produce language, how children acquire language, how adults learn second languages, how brain damage affects language processing, to what extent animals can use language, and how language and thought are related.

Course Requirements:

There will be a midterm and a final exam (primarily in short-answer format), covering material from lectures and assigned readings. The final will not be cumulative per se, however some questions may require background knowledge of material covered in the previous section of the course. Each exam is worth 40 points, and thus each accounts for 40% of your grade.

In addition, there will be five homework exercises spaced throughout the term. You will be required to write short papers (1-2 pages) in response to these assignments, in which you apply the principles discussed in class to real-world situations. Each paper is worth 5 points, and you may drop your lowest grade (or skip an assignment), thus the papers will account for 20% of your grade. Note that while discussion in class and with classmates is encouraged, these papers must be your *own work* – cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated.

You may also earn up to 3 points of extra credit (thus giving you up to a 3% increase in your final grade) by participating as a subject in psychology experiments. If you choose to participate in experiments, I encourage you to do so early in the term. You can sign up for experiments at the following website: <http://experimetrix.com/ucsd/>

Finally, you are encouraged to routinely check the course webpage for schedule changes (which are quite likely to occur), supplementary readings, homework exercises, amusing quotes, etc.

Tentative Schedule of Events

(updated 10/19/06)

WEEK	DAY	DATE	TOPIC	READING
	Thu	9/21	Introduction	Ch. 1
1	Tue	9/26	Background & Central Issues	pp. 17-33 pp. 51-56
	Thu	9/28	Speech Perception	Ch. 4 (63-87)
2	Tue	10/3	Word Comprehension	Ch. 5
	Thu	10/5	Word Comprehension 2	
3	Tue	10/10	Sentence Comprehension	Ch. 6
	Thu	10/12	Sentence Comprehension 2	
4	Tue	10/17	Discourse Comprehension	Ch. 7
	Thu	10/19	Discourse Comprehension 2	
5	Tue	10/24	Reading	Ch. 4 (87-96)
	Thu	10/26	MIDTERM	
6	Tue	10/31	Language Production	Ch. 8
	Thu	11/2	Language Production 2	TBA
7	Tue	11/7	Dialogue	Ch. 9
	Thu	11/9	Language Acquisition	Ch. 12
8	Tue	11/14	Language Acquisition 2	Ch. 10
	Thu	11/16	Second Language Acquisition & Bilingualism (Sarah Callahan)	Ch. 11
9	Tue	11/21	Animal Language 1	Ch. 13 (361-374)
	Thu	11/23	Thanksgiving – no class	
10	Tue	11/28	Biological Foundations 1	Ch. 13 (338-361)
	Thu	11/30	Biological Foundations 2	TBA
	Wed	12/6	FINAL	

Note: This schedule is tentative and subject to change. You are responsible for regularly checking course website (<http://psy.ucsd.edu/~slevc/psy145/>) for up-to-date information.