

Psyc 321 Psycholinguistics

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Teaching Assistants

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Lectures: Ellis 319

Tuesday	10:00 – 11:30
Thursday	8:30 – 10:00

Office Hours: any time by appointment

Learning goals:

My aim is that you gain an overview of the field of the psychology of language and learn some experimental skills. You will learn to replicate the methods of a series of classic psycholinguistic experiments. In addition, you will learn how to construct new psycholinguistic experiments.

Course Evaluation:

Laboratories		40%
Midterm	(March 12)	30%
Final Paper	(due April 9)	30%

Paper topics due March 12, 2019

Laboratories

For this part of the course you are required to learn how to perform a number of psycholinguistic studies. The aim is to give you some "hands-on" experience in the experimental study of language. The laboratories include creating a voicing continuum for a speech perception experiment, creating a stimulus set for a lexical processing study, learning to eye track subjects for a sentence processing study, exploring conversation methodologies, and 'programming' a psycholinguistic study. There are 10 of these laboratories and eight will be marked (worth five marks each). Part of your mark will be what I call 'mastery marks'. If you complete and understand the laboratory, then you earn those marks. The rest of the marks for a particular laboratory are based on your responses to a series of short questions that must be answered and submitted by the deadline.

Software

Two free software packages should be downloaded to your computers. We will use them in some of the labs and classes. They also provide you with tools to carry out psycholinguistic activities in the future.

Praat – this is a computer program that allows you to record, analyze, synthesize and edit speech. It is available for many platforms and operating systems and can be downloaded from here: <http://www.fon.hum.uva.nl/praat/>

OpenSesame – this is an experiment creation program that can be used to present stimuli and time and record responses. It is available from here: <https://osdoc.cogsci.nl>

Final Paper

The paper will be evaluated according to the following criteria (30 marks):

Research - comprehensiveness, accuracy, use of current and relevant research

Organization - clear identified units of thought, elaboration (adequate explanation)

Writing - correct English grammar and spelling, clarity and coherence

Your topic can be anything in psycholinguistics that you find interesting, but the topic has to be approved by me (**note the ‘soft’ deadline for topics: March 12, 2020**).

Maximum 10 pages (double spaced) plus references.

12 point, Times New Roman, minimum half-inch margins.

Some tips on writing by Dr. Kate Jeffery:

https://corticalia.wordpress.com/2018/02/26/how-to-write/amp/?__twitter_impression=true

Midterm

The midterm will have the following format. The first section (A) of the exam will be composed of short answer questions. This will be followed by a section (B) of questions requiring longer answers drawn from the lecture material and readings. For both sections there will always be some choice. Finally, there will be a single question (C) of a very generally nature you need to integrate material and present a cogent argument. I have uploaded past midterms to the class webpage to help you study.