

LCD 105: INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLINGUISTICS  
Department of Linguistics & Communication Disorders • Queens College • CUNY  
Fall 2005

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Meeting Times: WF10:50am–12:05pm  
Classroom: Kiely 258  
Office Hours: F, 12:30-1:30  
Code 0896; Sec AW3FF

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**Required Text:** Cairns, Helen Smith (1999). *Psycholinguistics: An Introduction*. ProEd Publishers. (A reading schedule is listed on the back of this sheet. Reading assignments are due on the first day of the unit — with the exception of the first unit, “Beginning Concepts”.) The book is currently out of stock (and not yet available at the QC bookstore). I have arranged for copies to be made available for purchase. We will discuss this matter in class.

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**Objectives:** This course will introduce you to the complexity and creativity of the human use of language. Like breathing, walking, and sleeping, producing and understanding speech is a natural activity that we engage in, daily, with little or no conscious awareness. Psycholinguistics is a field that studies the unconscious processes that underlie these abilities. The more you understand about language, the more you understand about yourself and the people around you. LCD 105 is a course that all students should enjoy and find valuable, regardless of their major. For Linguistics majors, this course will complement the courses you take that deal with the formal and social aspects of language. For Communication Sciences and Disorders majors, this course provides useful introductory material that will prepare you for other courses in the major.

**Grading Policy:** There will be three exams, each consisting of objective questions (multiple choice, matching, and so on). Your final grade will be based on your scores for these three exams (30% each). **Please do not ask for extra work to improve a poor grade: the answer will be “no”.** The schedule for the exams is listed on the back of this page. If you must miss an exam because of extraordinary circumstances, you must notify me in advance, and you must schedule a make-up exam with the departmental office (718-997-2870). A word of caution: make-up exams are always essay exams, and people tend not to do as well on them as on the multiple-choice exams. An additional score (10% of your final grade) will be calculated based on your participation in in-class and out-of-class (online) activities. The in-class activities are unannounced, and cannot be made up.

**A Recipe for Successful Performance in This Class:** Attend class regularly. Read each assignment twice: the first time to prepare you for the lectures, the second to reinforce what you learned in class. Before we begin a unit, go over the study questions at the end of the assigned chapter so you will know what to focus on. At the end of the unit, make sure you can answer all the study questions. There will be overlap between the readings and the lectures; however, you will be responsible for everything in each — so, again, attend class regularly, and read all assignments. The schedule for this “semester” is printed on the back of this sheet. To avoid falling behind, pace yourself with the readings and plan ahead. The workload for this course is not tremendous, but you may find some of the material difficult because it’s new. Your goal should be to understand the concepts presented, rather than to simply memorize the facts.

**Classroom Behavior:** This is a large class. It’s everyone’s responsibility to be respectful of others in the class: no talking, no note passing, no loud gum chewing, no paper rattling, no snoring... While you should refrain from talking to your peers during class, you’re encouraged to ask questions and to contribute to class discussions. Try to be on time for class, and don’t leave before it’s over. If you have to leave early, let me know in advance. If you must come in late, enter quietly and find a seat.

## TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

DATE	READING	LECTURE
8/31, 9/02	Chapter 1	Beginning Concepts
9/07, 9/09, 9/14, 9/16	Chapter 2	Linguistic Competence
9/21, 9/23, 9/28	Chapter 3	Biological Basis of Language
9/30	Review	FIRST EXAM
10/07, 10/14, 10/19, 10/21	Chapter 4	Acquisition
10/26, 10/28, 11/02	Chapter 5	Production
11/04, 11/09, 11/11	Chapter 6	Perception: Lexical Access
11/16	Review	SECOND EXAM
11/18, 11/23, 11/30, 12/02	Chapter 7	Perception: Sentences
12/07, 12/09, 12/14	Chapter 8	Memory, Texts & Conversations
12/21	Review	THIRD EXAM: 11 am – 1 pm

There will be some recommended assignments and readings posted online, as well as practice quizzes for each of the chapters. Check the course web for more information.

Remember to use the study questions at the end of each chapter: reading them *before* you read the chapter will help you look for important information in the text.

This class has online support, on CUNY's Blackboard server. The Blackboard site for this class will give you access to supplementary materials, answer keys for exams, student grades, and important announcements.

To access the Blackboard server:

- If you already have a CUNY Portal ID, login at <https://blackboard-doorway.cuny.edu>.
- If you don't have a CUNY Portal ID, go to the CUNY Portal, <http://www.cuny.edu>, and get yourself registered.
- Check your Blackboard profile, to ensure that an email address that you check on a regular basis is the one that is listed. If you need to update your email address, go to <http://esims.cuny.edu> and make the changes there.
- If you have questions, check the FAQ at <http://qcpages.qc.cuny.edu/edtech/BlackBoard/students.html>.

A copy of this syllabus will be available both on the course web and on my website  
 (<http://qcpages.qc.cuny.edu/~efernand/>, "Teaching").  
 Any scheduling changes will be announced on the course web.