

LCD 105: INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLINGUISTICS
Department of Linguistics & Communication Disorders · Queens College · CUNY
Fall 2003

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Code 2786 ; Sec 10MAA

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”.)

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. Please do not ask for extra work to improve a poor grade: the answer would be “no”. The schedule for the exams is listed on the back of this page. If you must miss an exam, 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 objective exams.

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, plan ahead and pace yourself with the readings. 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, simply enter quietly and find a seat.

CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

Month	MON	TUE	WED	THU	Reading Assgmnmt	Lecture Topic
September	8			4	Chapter 1	Beginning Concepts
	15			11 18	Chapter 2	Linguistic Competence
	22 29			25	Chapter 3	Biological Basis of Language
October				2	FIRST EXAM	(Chapters 1, 2 & 3)
	6 13 20	7		9 16	Chapter 4	Acquisition
	27			23 30	Chapter 5	Production
	3 10			6 13	Chapter 6	Perception: Lexical Access
November	17				SECOND EXAM	(Chapters 4, 5 & 6)
	24		26	20 27	Chapter 7	Perception: Sentences
December	1 8			4 11	Chapter 8	Memory, Texts & Conversations
					THIRD EXAM	(Chapters 7 & 8)

Dates printed in white with shaded background are days the college will be closed: October 6 (Yom Kippur), October 13 (Columbus Day), and November 27 (Thanksgiving). Please make a note of extraordinary meeting dates: **October 7** (a Tuesday following Monday class schedule) and **November 26** (a Wednesday following Monday class schedule).

The final exam date and time will be announced as soon as it is set by the college, but expect it to be during the Final Exam Period, December 16-23 (most likely, December 18).

This class has an online component, on Queens College's Blackboard server, <http://online.qc.edu>. To access the online materials, you must activate your Blackboard account through the QC Office of Information Technology. Your Blackboard account will provide you access to the website for this class, where I will post important announcements, supplementary materials, answer keys for exams, and student grades.

- To activate your account, point your browser to <http://vanguard.qc.edu/>, the Queens College Student Account Registration Page ("Vanguard"). Read and follow the instructions and provide the requested information (student ID number, registration PIN, and so on).
- Once your account is activated, login to QC Online: <http://online.qc.edu/>.
- If you have already used Blackboard for another class, you don't need to activate your account again.
- If you experience technical difficulties, detailed instructions about account activation and profile set-up are available at <http://qcpages.qc.edu/~efernand/emfhome/teaching/tenstepspring2002updated.pdf>.

A copy of this syllabus is available both on the course web and on my website (<http://qcpages.qc.edu/~efernand/>, "Teaching").