

LCD 105: INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLINGUISTICS
Department of Linguistics & Communication Disorders • Queens College • CUNY
Fall 2004

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Meeting Times: M, Th, 10:50-12:05
Classroom: Kiely 258
Office Hours: Th, 12:10-1:10
Code 0840 ; Sec AM3RR

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 will 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 (718-997-2992). 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.

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, simply enter quietly and find a seat.

CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

MONTH	MON	TUE	WED	THU	READING	LECTURE
August	30				Chapter 1	Beginning Concepts
September				2		
	6			9	Chapter 2	Linguistic Competence
	13			16	Chapter 3	Biological Basis of Language
	20			23		
	27			30		
	4				FIRST EXAM	(Chapters 1, 2 & 3)
October				7		
	11			14	Chapter 4	Acquisition
	18					
	25			21	Chapter 5	Production
November	1			4	Chapter 6	Perception: Lexical Access
	8					
				11	SECOND EXAM	(Chapters 4, 5 & 6)
	15	16		18		
	22		25	Chapter 7	Perception: Sentences	
	29					
December	6			2		
	13			9	Chapter 8	Memory, Texts & Conversations
	20				THIRD EXAM	(Chapters 7 & 8)

Dates printed in white with shaded background are days the college will be closed: **September 6** (Labor Day), **September 16** (Rosh Hashanah), **October 11** (Columbus Day) and **November 25** (Thanksgiving). Please make a note of one extraordinary meeting date on **November 16** (a Tuesday that follows Thursday class schedule).

This class has an online component, managed using QC's Blackboard server, <http://blackboard.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://accounts.qc.edu/>, and follow the link for activating your "QC Online (Blackboard)" account. 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 Blackboard: <http://blackboard.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/tenstepsspring2002updated.pdf>.

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