LCD105: INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLINGUISTICS (1T3RR 3026) FALL 2008
Instructor: Eva M. Fernández (eva.fernandez@qc.cuny.edu)

Meeting Times: Tue/Thu 1:40–2:55 PM, Powdermaker Hall, Room 119 ✪ **Office Hours:** Tue 3:15-4:15 PM, Kissena Hall, Room 355

Description & 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 language is a natural activity that you engage in, multiple times a day, with little or no conscious awareness or effort. Psycholinguistics is a field that studies the unconscious processes that underlie this ability. The more you understand about language, how it is acquired, and how it is processed, 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) and on in-class and out-of-class participation (10%). In-class participation work is unannounced and cannot be made up. Out-of-class participation work is completed electronically (see Required Materials section, below).

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 students tend not to do as well on them as on the multiple-choice exams.

A Recipe for Successful Performance: 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 (units are listed on the back of this page, in the schedule table), go over the study questions at the end of the assigned chapter so you will know what to focus on as you're reading. At the end of the unit, make sure you can answer all the study questions. There will be some 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 on the back of this sheet and online (in the "Syllabus" area of the course web, see below). 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. (It will be more interesting for you that way.)

Classroom Behavior

It's your 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. And always silence cell phones and other such gadgets during class.

Communication

I prefer email (eva.fernandez@qc.cuny.edu) to voicemail. You must use your Queens College email to communicate with me; any email I send to you (individually or as a class) will be sent to that address. It will help me answer you more quickly if all emails you send to me include "LCD105" in the subject header. Please allow at least 48 hours for me to respond. To access your Queens College email, go to http://qcmail.qc.cuny.edu. If you don't have an account, get one at http://cams.qc.cuny.edu.

Required Materials

The required textbook for this course is *Psycholinguistics: An Introduction*, by Helen Smith Cairns (1999, ProEd). The book is currently out of stock, but I have permission from the author to make it available online (see "Textbook" page in course web). A copy of the book is available at the Library's reserve desk.

This class has an electronic component, on Blackboard. The Blackboard site for this class will give you access to out-of-class participation materials, required and supplementary study and reading materials, discussion about exams, grades, and important announcements. Instructions for accessing Blackboard are available at http://qcpages.qc.edu/edtech/BlackBoard/loggingOn.html.

Session-by-Session Schedule

Tuesday	Thursday	Unit (Reading)
	8/28	Beginning Concepts (Chapter 1)
9/2	9/4	Linguistic Competence (Chapter 2)
9/9	9/11	
9/16	9/18	Biological Basis of Language (Chapter 3)
9/26	9/25	
NO CLASS 9/30	10/2	**First Exam**
10/7	NO CLASS 10/9	Acquisition (Chapter 4)
NO CLASS 10/14	10/16	
10/21		
	10/23	Production (Chapter 5)
10/28	10/30	
11/3		
	11/6	Perception: Lexical Access (Chapter 6)
1111	11/13	
11/18		**Second Exam**
	11/20	Perception: Sentences (Chapter 7)
11/25	NO CLASS 11/27	
12/2	12/4	
12/9	12/11	Memory, Texts, & Conversations (Chapter 8)
12/16		
	FRIDAY Dec 19 1:45-3:45 ROOM TBA	**Third Exam**

Quick Links

http://qcmail.qc.cuny.edu (Queens College student email)
http://qcpages.qc.edu/edtech/BlackBoard/loggingOn.html (instructions to log on to Blackboard)
http://blackboard-doorway.cuny.edu/ (access Blackboard through the "back door")
http://www.cuny.edu (access Blackboard via the CUNY Portal)

A copy of this syllabus is available on Blackboard and on my personal website (http://www.qc.cuny.edu/~efernand/, "Teaching"). Any updates to our session-by-session schedule (below) will be provided on the course web and announced in class.