

LCD105: INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLINGUISTICS (AW3FF 2098) ❖ FALL 2006

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Meeting times: W, F 10:50-12:05, Room KY258

Office hours: F 12:30-1:30, Room KSSN355

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 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 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.

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 available 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

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.

Required Materials

The required textbook for this course is:

Cairns, Helen Smith (1999). *Psycholinguistics: An Introduction*. ProEd Publishers.

The book is currently out of stock, but I have obtained 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. To check availability of the book on reserve, go to the ERES (E-Reserve) website for this class, <http://queens.docutec.com/eres/coursepage.aspx?cid=1344>, and use the password "fer105".

This class has an electronic component on CUNY's Blackboard server. The Blackboard site for this class will give you access to out-of-class participation materials, supplementary study and reading materials, answer keys for exams, student grades, and important announcements. Instructions for accessing Blackboard are available at <http://blackboard.qc.cuny.edu>.

A copy of this syllabus is available both on the Blackboard course web and on my website (<http://qcpages.qc.cuny.edu/~efernand/>, "Teaching"). A complete session-by-session schedule is available on the course web and on the back of this page. Any scheduling changes will be announced on the course web and in class.

W	F	Topic
08/30	09/01	Beginning Concepts
09/06 M	09/08	
09/13	09/15	Linguistic Competence
09/20	09/22 ∅	
09/27	09/29	Biological Basis of Language
10/04		
	10/06	First Exam
10/11	10/13	Acquisition
10/18	10/20	
10/25	10/27	Production
11/01		
	11/03	Perception: Lexical Access
11/08	11/10	
11/15		Second Exam
	11/17	
11/22 F	11/24 ∅	Perception: Sentences
11/29	12/01	
12/06	12/08	Memory, Texts & Conversations
12/13	12/15 R	
12/20	12/22	Third Exam (exact date TBA)

M = Monday schedule

F = Friday schedule

R = reading day

∅ = college closed