

# LING/PHIL/PSY 432 *Psychology of Language*

## Fall 2017

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INSTRUCTOR: Jonathan Geary

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COURSE ROOM: Social Sciences 206

COURSE TIME: MWF 9:00-9:50

OFFICE: Douglass 305

OFFICE HOURS: W 10:00-12:00 (or by appointment; please contact me via email)

COURSE WEBSITE: <http://d2l.arizona.edu>

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### Course Description:

This course will provide an overview of the field of psycholinguistics. Topics include but are not limited to: speech processing, speech production, lexical access, animal vs. human communication, language acquisition, language and the brain, language disorders, reading and writing, multilingualism, and language modality (i.e. signed vs. spoken).

Audience: This course is cross-listed in Linguistics, Philosophy, and Psychology. The course is housed in the Linguistics department, but it is intended to be accessible to students from all three departments. For those of you who are currently unfamiliar with terms like *phonology*, *morphology*, and *syntax*, I can make available additional materials to give you an overview of these linguistic concepts. If at any point you feel you are struggling to keep up with these concepts, I encourage you to make an appointment with me right away.

Objectives: At the end of the term, students will be able to address the following questions:

1. How do humans process speech sounds, words, and sentences?
2. How do humans produce speech sounds, words, and sentences?
3. How do humans acquire their first language(s)?
4. How does bilingualism affect language processing and development?

**Course Website:** All materials (e.g. readings, assignments, quizzes) will be made available on D2L to the extent possible, along with weekly announcements, updates, and other interesting information. You should make a point of checking the course website on a daily basis.

**Textbook:** There is no required textbook. All required readings will be posted on D2L. Students are responsible for the information in the assigned readings. The readings are not guaranteed to be discussed in class, but the instructor can discuss the readings during office hours or by email.

**Grading:** Grades will be based on a point system. Points can be earned by completing assignments, daily activities, and the final exam. **The course will be graded out of 500 points, but there are 520 points available.** This means that you can skip some assignments and still receive full credit. Think carefully about whether you want to skip any assignments, and if so which ones you want to skip. **No late work will be accepted.**

A = 450-500 points; B = 400-449 points; C = 350-399 points; D = 300-349 points; E ≤ 299 points

**Requirements:**

<b>Attendance (40 points)</b>	= 40 points
<b>Quizzes and Exams (300 points)</b>	
Quizzes (12 Quizzes at 10 points each)	= 120 points
Exams (3 Exams at 60 points each)	= 180 points
<b>Written Assignments (190 points)</b>	
Article Notes (1 Article Notes at 30 points each)	= 30 points
Labs & Reports (5 Labs/Reports at 30 points each)	= 150 points
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<b>Total</b>	<b>= 520 points</b>

**Description of Major Assignments****(0) Syllabus Quiz (0 points)**

An untimed syllabus quiz will become available under the ‘Quiz’ tab on the first day of class. You may retake the syllabus quiz as many times as necessary, but you must receive a 100% on the quiz to have access to any other course materials (besides the syllabus).

**(1) Attendance (40 points)**

Attendance will be recorded daily; consistently late arrival and/or early departure without prior approval counts as a full absence, as does inattentive or disruptive behaviors (e.g. the use of your computer for anything other than notetaking). *The purpose of this is to make sure that you are attending class and remaining engaged with the material.*

**(2) Quizzes (120 points)**

You will complete twelve 10-question quizzes on the content of the readings and lectures, and you will have 60 minutes to complete each quiz. You may make one attempt at each quiz. The relevant readings/lectures are listed in the description for each quiz. *The purpose of the quizzes is to make sure that you are keeping on top of the readings and lectures.*

**(3) Exams (180 points)**

You will complete three 40-question quizzes on the content of the readings and lectures, and you will have 90 minutes to complete each exam. The exams are like larger quizzes in that they will assess your mastery of concepts from a wider range of readings and lectures, but they may also ask you to synthesize information that originally may have been divided across quizzes. Additionally, some exam questions may require you to provide a written response. *The purpose of the exams is to assess your mastery of the course material.*

**(4) Article Notes (30 points)**

You will complete one article notes assignment in which you summarize and address questions about specific aspects of an article from a journal on psycholinguistics (you will choose one article from a list of articles which I have preselected). Instructions for this assignment (including a list of the articles which you may choose from) will be posted on D2L, and you may submit your assignment at any point during the semester, though it will help to wait till after any lectures associated with your article. *The purpose of these assignments is for you to gain experience reading and synthesizing research articles, which are the primary method for conveying research results in the field of psycholinguistics.*

**(5) Labs & Reports (150 points)**

You will complete five in-class lab assignments and follow-up reports. These activities will involve working with your classmates to further explore research already discussed or to conduct “mini” experiments. Most labs will require completion as a written homework assignment (you will submit as a group), in which case you will be given a deadline and asked to submit the relevant work to D2L by the due date. You must be present on lab day to be eligible for the write-up and the subsequent points. If you are absent, late to class, or if you leave early without a documented excuse on the day on which a lab is conducted, you forfeit the opportunity to earn these points. *The purpose of these assignments is to give you experience conducting research and/or making psycholinguistic analyses, and to engage you in discussion of topics of a psycholinguistic nature with your peers.*

**(6) Extra Credit (30 points, maximum)**

There are various ways for you to earn extra points towards your overall grade in this class:

Experiment Participation: You can earn extra credit (and learn more about psycholinguistic research!) by participating in linguistics experiments. Research studies are announced and organized in an online system called SONA. To access available research studies, you will need to submit a short and easy account request here: <https://arizona-linguistics.sona-systems.com> (click ‘Request account’, and fill out the short account request form). You will receive an email with your login and temporary password. Once you’ve created a SONA account, log into your account to see all available studies and to sign up for participation in one or more research studies. Participation in an experiment will typically earn you one credit on SONA, and each credit is worth five points in this class.

Office Hours: You can earn extra credit by attending office hours. You must come to office hours prepared with substantive questions to ask about course material or anything related to psycholinguistics (grade queries, quiz review, etc. do not count, nor does simply asking me to explain one of the readings). Each office hours visit is worth 5 points, though whether a visit “counts” for extra credit is up to the discretion of the instructor.

Other: During the semester I may share other extra credit opportunities.

## **Course Policies**

**Course deadlines are NOT flexible without the prior approval of the instructor. No late work will be accepted.** If you have an emergency, you must notify me as soon as possible, AND provide documentation of the emergency, AND complete the work as promptly as possible, given the circumstances (we will determine a schedule together).

If, for instance, you skip an assignment and later realize that you needed to complete that assignment to receive a particular grade, I will NOT allow you to submit the assignment late. Technical glitches in uploading documents, taking quizzes, reviewing material, etc. are not valid reasons for missing deadlines. Although technical issues with D2L are not unheard of, they are not sufficient excuses for a late assignment or submission. Please plan ahead so that any technical issues you may have can be addressed in plenty of time to meet posted deadlines (take screenshots to document your difficulties, which can also support the legitimacy of your issue). If you need special access to accommodate an early schedule, please let me know at least one week in advance so that I can make the relevant adjustments in D2L. Assignments will NOT be accepted late and/or CANNOT be made up unless you have a documented medical or family emergency, have a Dean's Excuse, or must miss required work for religious reasons (as recognized by UA policy). If you miss coursework for any other reason, you will lose points for that assignment.

**Students facing exceptional circumstances:** If exceptional circumstances arise or are anticipated during the term, such as chronic illness, pregnancy or childbirth, trauma, or an emergency with unforeseen and long-term impacts, please contact me as soon as possible to inform me of the situation. Legitimate and official documentation of your situation must be provided prior to negotiating an approved change of schedule for the class, should you request such modification. In addition, I expect regular and timely contact during the term, which includes informing me immediately of any changes to your situation that may impact your ability to fully participate in the class and/or to meet deadlines under the approved alternate schedule. It is your responsibility to inform me prior to or immediately following a (missed) revised deadline so that we can work together to accommodate its effect on your course participation. Again, it is imperative that you keep in continued and consistent contact with me in order for me to be able to accommodate your needs and so that I can adjust my schedule accordingly. Failure to keep in touch will be considered a deviation from our agreement and may result in said agreement becoming null and void.

**You are required to cite your sources in any written assignment you submit.** Give credit where credit is due; if an idea is not yours, you cannot present it as yours. If you do not cite your sources where appropriate, you will not receive credit for the assignment. I do not care how you cite your sources (you can use MLA, APA, Chicago, or something else), as long as you cite your sources in some way. I understand that this may be new to some students. If that is the case, or if you have questions regarding what needs cited, please contact me so that I may help you.

**Email etiquette:** Please feel free to call me "Jonathan" or "Jon". If referring to your instructors by their first name makes you uncomfortable, you may also call me "Mr. Geary". Please do not refer to me as "Dr. Geary", as I am still a PhD-student and have not yet earned that title. Please keep your emails respectful and informative. I can help you best if you are clear and polite in your correspondence, and I will reply in kind.

**You must motivate yourself.** It is your responsibility to check D2L *every day*. You are responsible for your own participation. You are responsible for reading all assigned readings and for completing all assignments on time.

**Course documents (aside from the grading policy) may change,** with reasonable advance notice from the instructor.

**Grading Philosophy:** Your grade in this course will reflect the quality and timeliness of submitted assignments as well as your level of mastery of the course objectives as demonstrated on these assignments. Arguing a grade based on any criteria aside from these is inappropriate.

**Grade Review Policy:** If at any point you feel that you have received a grade that is unfair or inaccurate, please inform me in writing of your concern within **one week** of having received the grade. I will consider the issue carefully and reply to you as soon as possible with either a grade correction or a justification of why I believe the original grade

should stand. In no case will your request for a grade review result in punitive measures being taken against you in this course. You are encouraged to request clarification or correction for any grading concern.

**It is your responsibility to ensure that you are comfortable with the technologies that are necessary for successful participation in this course.** If you have questions or concerns about the technological aspects of this course, there are university resources that are available to help you:

For general computing questions: [http://uits.arizona.edu/departments/the247#\\_blank](http://uits.arizona.edu/departments/the247#_blank).

For help with D2L: e-mail [d2l@email.arizona.edu](mailto:d2l@email.arizona.edu).

**Technical problems with D2L are to be expected.** You must consider this possibility and have a back-up plan for completing your work on time. If you do experience a technical problem that is beyond your control (network interruptions, etc.), notify me as soon as possible, AND submit a problem report to the D2L team as promptly as possible, AND complete the work ASAP. If you do not follow these instructions, late work will not be accepted.

To submit a problem report to D2L:

(a) Go to the D2LHelp page at <http://help.D2L.arizona.edu> and click on “Report a Problem,” OR

(b) e-mail [d2l@email.arizona.edu](mailto:d2l@email.arizona.edu), and copy the instructor: [jonathangeary@email.arizona.edu](mailto:jonathangeary@email.arizona.edu).

**Academic Integrity Policy:** While you are encouraged to form study groups to discuss your homework assignments for the course, all work (except group lab reports) must be typed and completed individually.

- It is not acceptable to collaborate in any way on exams.
- It is not acceptable to submit work for this course which has been previously submitted by you or by anyone else for academic credit at any time.
- It is not acceptable to falsify any component of any document that you submit to this class for a grade.
- It is not acceptable to provide your work to other students in a manner that might facilitate their submission of your work under their name.
- It is not acceptable for any two or more students to submit assignments with substantial identical content.
- It is not acceptable for any student to submit assignments containing unattributed quotations or paraphrases from another source (see citation policy above).

Any violation of the Code of Academic Integrity will lead to either a grade of zero on the relevant assignment or a failing grade in the course. According to University Policy, further disciplinary action may be pursued for anyone with multiple code violations. The Code of Academic Integrity can be found at:

<http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/codeofacademicintegrity>.

**Students with disabilities:** If you anticipate the need for reasonable accommodation to meet the requirements of this course, you must register with the Disability Resource Center (phone: 520.621.3268; web: <http://drc.arizona.edu/>) and request that they send me official notification of your accommodation needs as soon as possible. Please plan to email me personally to discuss accommodations and how my course requirements may impact your ability to fully participate. We can then plan how best to coordinate your accommodation.

**Adding after the first day of class:** Provided you register within the appropriate time-frame and/or have our approval, you are welcome to join the course late. However, please be aware that you may have missed assignments and deadlines, and that I am NOT obligated to provide you with make-up opportunities or extensions for the deadlines you have missed. While adding the class after the first day will not prevent you from earning an excellent grade, it is not valid to assume that you can add late without incurring possible costs, regardless of the reason for your late admission to the course. You are responsible for learning about the material you missed, and you are responsible for working through the remaining items in the course calendar in order to earn the grade you hope to achieve this semester.

**Cell phone use in class is prohibited,** except as required for reasonable accommodation by the Disability Resources Center or by direction by the instructor.