

Unique number: 43770

<b>Class time:</b> T Th 2:00 - 3:15 PM	<b>Location:</b> NOA 1.116
<b>Instructor:</b> Dr. Zenzi M. Griffin	<b>TA:</b> Danielle Eagan
<b>E-mail:</b> griffinz@psy.utexas.edu	<b>E-mail:</b> deeagan@gmail.com
<b>Instructor Website:</b> www.psy.utexas.edu/griffin	
<b>Course Website:</b> Blackboard	
<b>Phone:</b> (512) 232-8062 (e-mail is recommended)	
<b>Office:</b> SEA 5.214	<b>Office:</b> SEA 4.110E
<b>Office hours:</b> Tue 3:15 - 4:15; Wed 1:45 - 2:45; & by appointment	<b>Office hours:</b> Mon 9:30 - 11:30; & Wed 9 - 10; & by appointment

**Course Description:**

This undergraduate course provides an introduction to psycholinguistics, which uses methods and theory from cognitive psychology to understand how people use language to express themselves (i.e., speaking or language production) and to understand what other's say (i.e., language comprehension). Classes will be composed of lectures, exercises, and discussion. Topics include the relationship between language and thought, the representation of meaning, speech errors, parallels between signed and spoken languages, the time courses for preparing various aspects of utterances and articulating speech, speech perception, and spoken word recognition. The course is recommended for students with an interest in language or cognitive science, as well as those interested in language acquisition, automatic speech recognition and generation, or communication.

This course carries the Writing Flag. Writing Flag courses are designed to give students experience with writing in an academic discipline. In this class, you can expect to write regularly during the semester, complete substantial writing projects, and receive feedback to help you improve your writing. You will also have the opportunity to revise some assignments, and to read and discuss your peers' work.

**Course Objectives:**

This course is an introduction to psycholinguistics, the study of the psychological processes of language use. The goal of the course is to:

- introduce students to the field of psycholinguistics;
- familiarize students with methods and terminology from psycholinguistics and cognitive psychology;
- provide examples of how information is evaluated from a scientific perspective; how psychological research is conducted; and how psychological findings are communicated.
- provide students with experience writing psychological papers.

The objectives of the course will be accomplished through the combination of readings, lectures, exercises, and assignments. The lectures will not exactly follow the textbook. Information from both lectures and readings will be needed to do well on exams.

**Pre-requisites:** The Psychology Department will drop all students who do not meet the prerequisite: PSY 301 General Psychology with a C or better.

**Required reading:**

Byrd, D., & Mintz, T. H. (2010). *Discovering Speech, Words, and Mind*. Chichester UK: Wiley-Blackwell. Plus additional readings that will be posted on Blackboard.

**Grading**

Assignment	Points	Percentage of final grade
Homework/Discussion posts	200	20%
Class Exercises	150	15%
Research report	350	35%
Take home final	300	30%

## Language Processing - Spring 2011

Straight-scale with no curve:

A = 93 - 100

A- = 90 - 92

B+ = 87 - 89

B = 83 - 86

B- = 80 - 82

C+ = 77 - 79

C = 73 - 78

C- = 70 - 72

D+ = 67 - 69

D = 63 - 68, etc

### Homework Assignments: Discussion posts

Homework assignments will largely consist of posting comments and questions about readings to an online discussion board on Blackboard and replying to other students' posts. In writing posts, students are encouraged to relate course content to their own experiences and interests, and to think about relations among course topics and links to other fields. Each post should be a full paragraph (at least 100 words). In the case of questions, the text of the post should provide a context for the question, consider possible answers, argue why the question is important, or be added to a comment or other questions to reach the length minimum. **Further guidelines and an example entry will be available on Blackboard. Feedback will be provided on first posts.** Postings may receive full credit (10 pts) or no credit (e.g., for lack of clarity, not providing some context or justification for a question, for inconsiderate responses to others' posts, irrelevant content). Interesting questions submitted by students may be used in exams. **Homework assignments are due on Tuesdays by 11 pm. No credit will be given for late homework assignments.** There will be 14 Discussion Boards (1 per week, not counting Spring Break) across the semester. Students are expected to post 1-2 times each week for a total of 20 posts. Of these, at least 6 posts should be responses to posts by other students. **Unless otherwise specified, homework assignments will only be accepted via Blackboard.**

Components of Research Project	Points	Deadline
Generating materials	20	2/10/2011
Participating in data collection	20	2/17/2011
Methods section - reviewed by instructors	30	2/24/2011
Outline for Introduction with at least 5 new references - reviewed by instructors - [due after results are in so can take them in mind while framing Introduction]	20	3/3/2011
Abstract, Introduction, Methods, Results, References - reviewed by instructors	70	3/22/2011
Full draft (Abstract, Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, References) - points go to writer for meeting length requirement for new sections and submitting on time	40	4/7/2011
Professional style review letter & checklist - points to reviewer based on quality of review	50	4/19/2011
Final draft: Abstract, Introduction, (Methods, Results), Discussion, References - reviewed by instructors	100	4/28/2011
Total	350	

### Class Exercises

Exercises will be posted conducted in class. The points they will be worth will be variable and they will often be credit/no-credit. Their purpose is to provide feedback to the instructor, direct attention to main points in lectures, and encourage attendance.

### Exams

The final exam will be conducted via Blackboard and posted at least 5 days before it is due. It will be composed of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. They will be open-book and open-notes, but must be completed without the aid of any other person. The standard for earning points on exams will be very high because they are open book. The final exam is due by **Wednesday, May 11, noon.**

### Extra credit

Students may earn up to 30 points (3% increase in points towards final grade) by posting more than 20 times on the Blackboard Discussion boards (although no more than 2 posts per week will count towards extra credit) and writing short critiques of psycholinguistic articles (pre-approved by instructor or TA). Each extra post that

## Language Processing - Spring 2011

receives full credit will be worth 5 points. Short critiques are worth up to 10 points each. Students are also encouraged to submit ideas for extra credit assignments via email up before April 7.

## Religious Holidays

Students who will miss a class or assignment due to a religious holy day must inform the instructor at least 14 days in advance to make arrangements.

## Emergencies, absences, late exams, and other problems

If a student becomes ill or has some other crisis that seriously affects the student's ability to attend class or complete assignments, the student should **contact the instructor as soon as possible via email**. The *earlier* the instructor knows that there is a problem, the more likely it is that arrangements can be made to minimize the impact on academic performance. Please be considerate to other students and stay home if you have something contagious. Note that there are many resources available via the Dean of Students and it is good to contact the Dean of Students in case of problems that may affect your coursework:

<http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/emergency/quickref/index.php>

<http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/emergency/>

Unless excused or other arrangements are made, late exams will be penalized 5% of the maximum possible points for submissions within the first 12 hours of the deadline, 10% penalty for those within the first 24 hours after the deadline, and then a penalty of an additional 10% of total points possible for each 24-hour period following the deadline. Exams will not be accepted 5 days after the due date.

## Students with Disabilities

Students who require special accommodations need to provide the instructor with a letter that documents the disability from the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Office of the Dean of Students (471-6259-voice or 471-4641 - TTY). This letter should be presented to the instructor at the beginning of the semester (by January 31) and accommodations should be discussed at that time. No accommodations will be made for students without this letter. Five business days before an exam the student should remind the instructor of any testing accommodations that will be needed. For more information see

<http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/ssd/providing.php>

## Academic Integrity

"The core values of the University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the University is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community."

<http://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/qi09-10/ch01/index.html>

All students are assumed to have read the Honor Code and consented to be bound by it. Violations of the Honor Code are taken extremely seriously and the instructor will recommend that violators receive a failing grade for the course (not just the assignment). Specific violations include (but are not limited to):

- Use or provision of prohibited assistance during exams.
- Collaboration on assignments that are intended to be completed individually.
- Plagiarism, defined as the use of the **ideas** without attribution.

All assignments in this course are to be completed without the assistance of any other person or group unless otherwise indicated. If you have any questions, please ask.

## Courtesy

Do not carry on unrelated conversations during class. You may think that you are being subtle when you pass notes, but it's usually obvious. The instructor reserves the right to confiscate any such communications. Please turn off or silence cell phones during class. If you must have one on vibrate, sit near the door, and answer the phone outside of the classroom. In general, avoid entering or leaving class during a lecture, but if it is anticipated and unavoidable, take a seat near the door. If you bring a laptop to class, try to sit near the back so other students will not be distracted by reading your notes or watching you slay dragons.

**Dissemination of course materials**

Lecture notes, homework assignments, exams, and announcements will be posted on Blackboard. The instructor will post lecture notes promptly AFTER lecture (so surprises will not be given away). Alert the TA as soon as possible if you cannot access Blackboard. Note that notification of scheduled downtime and unexpected disruptions are posted on the Blackboard login page.

**Summary of Course Requirements**

Students are expected to:

- 1) attend classes, ask clarification questions (by raising your hand in class or emailing afterward), and contribute to discussions;
- 2) read the textbook and supplemental readings;
- 3) complete homework assignments and exams and submit them by their due dates;
- 4) show reasonable courtesy to the instructor and other students, on-line and in class.