LING 173: Psycholinguistics

Syllabus: Spring 2014

An introduction to modern psycholinguistics, with an emphasis on sentence comprehension and production. Questions concerning species-specificity, language acquisition, and the neurological organization of language are included for consideration.

The course has no pre-requisites, although prior experience in psychology or linguistics is helpful.

Time: T, Th 3:30pm -- 4:50 PM


Reader: A collection of papers in psycholinguistics will be distributed in class and on LATTE.

Professor: Sophia A. Malamud Email: smalamud AT brandeis DOT edu Office: Volen 137

Requirements:

- Students will be required to do the assigned readings, and to participate in the discussion of the assigned papers in class.
- They are also required to prepare definitions of key terms, and to write brief discussions of the concepts covered in class. Some of the discussion questions will review material already covered, while others will ask for discussion of questions before we talk about them in class.
- In the course of the semester, there will be a few quizzes, covering the basic terminology and concepts.
- There will be several empirical assignments (labs), where students collect data and discuss results.
- Finally, there will be a term research project, consisting of data collection, data analysis, bibliographic research, and proposal for an experiment, including a discussion of methodology and design. The project will be reported in a series of assignments, culminating in a term paper of about 10 single-spaced pages.

Grading:

- Review assignments 10% - obligatory to qualify for a grade
- Reaction Squibs on assigned papers 25%
- Empirical assignments (labs) 20%
- Project: 45%
- Drafts, deadlines, communication with me 10% (that relates to all deadlines, not just the project)
- Bibliographic research 15%
- Empirical research 15%
- Writing quality 5%

Honour code: You’re supposed to work independently on all assignments in this class. One sort-of exception is written discussion assignments and lab assignments, which you are encouraged to discuss in groups. However, after you are done talking to your group, you should go away and write up the answers on your own, and in your own words. All data collection for the labs should be done independently. Although collaboration is encouraged, collaboration should not be confused with writing up the results of a classmate’s work - this is unacceptable. If you work as a part of a group, you should indicate this at the top of your assignment when you submit it. Of course, you’re encouraged to talk to me and the TAs about all assignments. Cheating is a very serious business and will not be tolerated at all. We will make every
attempt to be reasonable about assignments, due dates, etc., but infractions of the honour code will be dealt with severely.

Additional information:

Throughout the semester, deadlines, assignments, etc. will be announced on this website, so please check it often. If you feel that you are failing to make a deadline, you should communicate with me immediately, and ask for an extension before the assignment is due. I’m usually generous with extensions, but I cannot accept an assignment if you just skip a deadline without prior communication with me. If a family or medical emergency intervenes, you should communicate with me as soon as you can. There is also a LATTE page for this course that you can access by logging in here. You must be officially registered for the course in order to access the LATTE page.

If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see the professor immediately. Retroactive accommodation cannot be provided.