Instructor: Anne Pycha, pycha@uwm.edu
Course time & location: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00-3:15pm, Northwest Quadrant Building B, Room G596
Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, Johnston 124, 12:45-1:45pm

Description: This course provides an introduction to psycholinguistics, which is the study of how human beings perceive and produce language. We will focus on spoken language (not written), on experimental techniques (not computational or clinical), and on first-language competency (not second). Although will cover some material on children’s language acquisition, the emphasis is on fully-formed adult language.

Objectives: Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:
1. Operationalize linguistic descriptions and theories into testable psycholinguistic hypotheses.
2. Formulate specific problems about how people perceive or produce language and sketch experimental designs to investigate these problems.
3. Understand how psycholinguistic experiments use predictor and outcome variables to test hypotheses and draw conclusions.
4. Read, comprehend, and summarize scientific articles in psycholinguistics.
5. Write clearly and concisely about the study of psycholinguistics.

Pre-requisites: Linguistics 350 or equivalent. Junior status or above.
Absences: Students take responsibility for all content presented during course meetings.
Late assignments: Not accepted.

Time commitment: Approximately ten hours per week. Of this, students will spent two hours and thirty minutes in class; they will spend the remaining time engaged in reading, study, and preparation.

Course requirements and grading
Grading will be based on a 200-point total, broken down according to the following course requirements:
- Eight in-class reading responses (4 points each, 32 points total)
- 2 quizzes (Quiz 1 = 15 points, Quiz 2 = 25 points, 40 points total)
- 4 homework exercises (15 points each, 60 points total)
- One oral presentation of a research article, done in pairs (28 points)
- One oral presentation of final project (40 points)
- Completion of the online training in Human Subjects Research (no points assigned, but required to pass the course)
In addition, graduate students must hand in a write-up of their final project, due on Thursday, Dec 17, 2015. For these students only, the final project grade of 40 points will take into account both the oral presentation and the write-up.

**Linguistics 440: Psycholinguistics**

**SCHEDULE**

**Week 1. Introduction. September 6 and 8, 2016**

**Thursday**
Reading: “How to read a scientific article” by May Purugganan and Jan Hewitt

**Week 2. Pre-natal learning. September 13 & 15, 2016**

**Tuesday**
Reading: Altmann, Chapter 1: “Looking towards Babel” and Chapter 2 “Babies, birth, and language”

**Thursday**
In-class: Reading response #1

**Week 3. Perception of speech sounds. September 20 & 22, 2016**

**Tuesday**
Reading: Altmann, Chapter 3 “Chinchillas do it too”
Due: Exercise #1

**Thursday**
In-class: Reading response #2

**Week 4. Acquiring words. September 27 & 29, 2016**

**Tuesday**
Reading: Altmann, Chapter 4 “Words, and what we learn to do with them”
Due: Exercise #2

**Thursday**
In-class: Reading response #3
Week 5. Syllables and co-articulation. October 4 & 6, 2016
Tuesday
QUIZ #1 in class. Covers weeks 1 through 4.

Thursday
Reading: Altmann, Chapter 5 “Organizing the dictionary”

Tuesday
Reading: Altmann, Chapter 6 “Words, and how we (eventually) find them”

Thursday
In-class: Reading response #4

Week 7. Sentences and ambiguity. October 18 & 20, 2016
Tuesday
Reading: Altmann, Chapter 7 “Time flies like an arrow”
Due: Exercise #3

Thursday
In-class: Reading response #5

Tuesday
Reading: Altmann, Chapter 8 “Who did what, and to whom?”
Due: Exercise #4

Thursday
In-class: Reading response #6

Tuesday
Student presentations.

Thursday
Student presentations.

Tuesday
Reading: Altmann, Chapter 9 “On the meaning of meaning”
Thursday
In-class: Reading response #7

**Week 11. Producing speech and language. November 15 & 17, 2016**
Tuesday
Reading: Altmann, Chapter 10 “Exercising the vocal organs”

Thursday
In-class: Reading response #8
DEADLINE: Human subjects training must be completed by this date.

**Week 12. Quiz. November 22, 2016. (No class on November 24: Thanksgiving)**
Tuesday
QUIZ #2. In class. Covers weeks 5 through 11.

**Week 13. Research projects. November 29 & December 1, 2016**
Tuesday
Student presentations.

Thursday
Student presentations.

**Week 14. Research projects. December 6 & 8, 2016**
Tuesday
Student presentations.

Thursday
Student presentations.

**Week 15. December 13, 2016**
Tuesday
Course conclusion

**Final paper deadline for graduate students: December 20, 2016**
Fine print

**UWM Policies and Procedures**
In this course, we will abide by the UWM policies and procedures as described in the following document.  http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf

**Students with disabilities**
Students with disabilities should notify the instructor immediately so that we can make appropriate accomodations. We will follow university procedures as described in the following document.  http://www4.uwm.edu/sac/SACltr.pdf

**Religious observances**
Students who plan to observe religious holidays should notify the instructor immediately so that we can make appropriate accomodations. We will follow university procedures as described in the following document.  http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S1.5.htm

**Students called to active military duty**
Students who are called to active military duty should notify the instructor immediately so that we can make appropriate accomodations. We will follow university procedures as described in the following document.  Students:  http://www4.uwm.edu/current_students/military_call_up.cfm