



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEW SOUTH WALES

SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY
PSY3311
LANGUAGE AND COGNITION

Session 1, 2012

COURSE STAFF

The staff have no set contact hours. It's best to arrange any meeting via email or phone.

Lecturers

Marcus Taft [co-ordinator]
Skye McDonald

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Tutors

Adam Bove
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COURSE INFORMATION

The aim of this course is to provide a background to the structure of language and to the cognitive mechanisms underlying the way this structure is used in order to speak, write, read, and understand speech. The focus will be primarily on normal adult language, but dysfunctional adult language and normal and dysfunctional child language will also be considered. The general orientation of the course is a theoretical one, addressing the cognitive mechanisms underlying language performance, but practical considerations that arise from this theoretical foundation will also be discussed. At the end of the course, you should have gained a greater appreciation of the theories and findings associated with cognitive aspects of language processing as well as a foundation for further learning not only in relation to normal language use, but also in areas of language dysfunction. The course is worth 6 credit units.

Lectures

Monday 2-3	CLB3
Tuesday 11-12	Mat D

The first 19 lectures will be given by Prof Taft. This will include an introduction to language and psycholinguistics followed by a coverage of phonology and speech perception, word

recognition and reading, as well as sentence-level processing. Prof McDonald will present the remaining 5 lectures on the neuropsychology of language, and communicative dysfunction.

All lectures will adopt an interactive style, with questions being asked in class to help guide the direction of your thinking. You are encouraged to put up your hand to suggest an answer. Given that there are no penalties for wrong answers, this provides an opportunity for you to try out ideas that you think might be relevant. You are also welcome to ask questions during lectures for the same reason. That is, active learning is encouraged. Lecture content will be conveyed orally, with an opportunity to think about the material, and ample time to write down the important information. Prof Taft will achieve this by writing the main points on the board as they are presented, while Prof McDonald will use Powerpoint presentation. Lecture notes will be made available on the PSYC3311 Blackboard website.

All lectures will be recorded via Lectopia and will be available on Blackboard soon after the lecture.

Tutorials/Practical Classes

	Tuesday 2-4	Mat 307
or	Tuesday 4-6	Mat 307
or	Wednesday 12-2	Mat 306
or	Wednesday 2-4	Mat 306
or	Thursday 4-6	Mat 302

The tutorial/practical classes will begin in Week 4. Tutorials will be relevant to the lecture material covered by Prof Taft. In Weeks 4, 5, and 10, you will participate in several psycholinguistic experiments with the aim of learning about some basic methodological approaches to psycholinguistic issues, as well as adding to the knowledge base developed from the lecture material. Tutorials will not be recorded and tutorial notes will not be posted on Blackboard.

In addition to the experiments and demonstrations, there will be two further pieces of research that will require you to collect data outside of class time. The first of these will be designed and set up by you in partnership with one or two other students who are in your practical class. Suggestions for possible experiments will be presented in the practical class of Week 6 and you will have several weeks in which to set up your experiment and collect your data. There will be opportunities to consult with your tutor during this period, namely, in Weeks 7 and 8. An oral presentation of your project will be required in the practical class of Week 9, with a written report due at the beginning of Week 11 (see the Assessment section below). The purpose of this "group" project is for you to take a research question and follow through the logic and issues involved in setting up a means of addressing this question. Your success in achieving an answer to the question is far less important than the logic of how you go about testing it and how you interpret the data you collect. The self-design of the experiment is in line with the philosophy of active learning adopted in this course, and the project also provides valuable experience for developing your empirical skills, which are useful not only for future projects (as in an Honours year), but for any problem-based tasks you may face in your future career. In addition, the need to analyse your own data provides an opportunity to implement some of the statistical methods you might have been taught in another course.

The second piece of outside research will be introduced in the practical class of Week 11. This is a study that will already be designed for you, looking at the processing of discourse. You will be required to collect a few examples of discourse during the week, which must be

sent electronically to Prof Taft by a given deadline. These will then be collated for use in the practical class of Week 12. No written report is required for this study, but the material covered is assessable in the final exam.

ASSESSMENT

Class-work

There will be a piece of written work associated with the experiments conducted in Weeks 4 and 5, which will be given out in the Monday lecture of Week 6 (April 2). The aim of this assessment is to establish whether you have understood the basic ideas covered in those tutorials, and will take the form of a short, structured report that must be submitted to the General Office **by Tuesday April 16** (Week 7) before 4:30 pm. Concurrent submission through Turnitin via Blackboard is also required as confirmation of submission and a check for plagiarism. This report will be **worth 15% of your final mark**, with marks deducted for unjustified lateness in accordance with the School of Psychology guidelines. You may discuss your report with other members of class while preparing it, but must submit an independent and original piece of work. Marks will be available by April 25 and assignments returned in your Week 9 tutorial.

The oral presentation of your group project will be required in the practical class of Week 9, and the **written report** will be due in the General Office **by Monday May 14** (Week 11) before 4:30 pm. Concurrent submission through Turnitin via Blackboard is again required as confirmation of submission and a check for plagiarism. The oral presentation will not be assessed, but the feedback you receive should help improve your written report. Oral presentations will be given as a group, but the report must be individually and independently written. It should be 1500-2000 words in length and take the form of a standard psychology report (with an Introduction, Method, Results, and Discussion section, though an Abstract is unnecessary). It will be **worth 35% of your final mark**. Marks will be deducted for unjustified lateness in accordance with the School of Psychology guidelines. The best reports will be those that structure their arguments logically, making it clear why the experiment was carried out and what the implications of the results are, with a strong integration of ideas and evidence of insightful thinking. Marked reports will be available from the General Office prior to the final exam (notified via Blackboard).

Participation in practical classes will be **worth 10% of your final mark** and will be determined on the basis of attendance, timely submission of the discourse collected for the Week 12 class, and involvement in class discussions. **Failure to collect your marked report within one day after the final exam will result in the loss of 1 participation mark.**

Examination

A two-hour final examination will require 4 essay-type questions (of equal weight) to be answered on the lecture material (3 from Prof Taft and 1 from Prof McDonald) plus a set of short-answer questions on the laboratory material. The exam will be **worth 40% of your final mark**. The exam questions will be such that an understanding of the materials covered in lectures and practicals classes should be sufficient to at least pass. The best essay-type answers, however, would provide extra relevant information from other sources.

Students can attend the final examination only once, either in the regularly scheduled or deferred examination period. If sick on the day of the scheduled exam, you should apply for a deferred medical exam. The opportunity to take the deferred exam will only be offered once.

RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

Textbooks

There is no prescribed text, but the books listed below are recommended. Lecturers may also refer you to specific journal articles related to their lectures.

Fromkin, V., Blair, D., & Collins, P. (2005). *An introduction to language* (5th Australian Edition). South Melbourne: Thomson. (MyCourse: S410/311 Z or Y)

Harley, T.A. (2008). *The psychology of language: From data to theory*. 3rd Edition. Hove UK: Erlbaum (UK) Taylor & Francis. (MyCourse: S401.9/394 D)

Taft, M. (1991). *Reading and the mental lexicon*. Hove UK: Lawrence Erlbaum Assocs. (MyCourse: S428.4019/6 A)

Blackboard

Students should regularly log into the course website on Blackboard for any updated information on the course. Recorded versions of the lectures (Lectopia), along with lecture notes, can be accessed through this site. A discussion board is available for inter-student interactions, which should avoid insulting or demeaning comments. Staff will monitor such discussions and may occasionally respond to particular points. However, interaction with staff should preferably be made through direct email or in person.

ADMINISTRATION MATTERS, INCLUDING PLAGIARISM

For more information about the following issues, see the School of Psychology's Student Guide (http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/students/current/files/Student_Guide.pdf):

1. Expectations of students (including attendance at lectures and tutorials).
2. Academic honesty. This includes misconduct such as cheating (on exams or by copying other students' assignments) and plagiarism (see also <http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism/index.html>).
3. Procedures for submission of assignments and the School's policy concerning late submissions (e.g., for assignments, 2% of the marks will be deducted for each day or part day overdue).
4. Examination procedures and advice concerning illness or misadventure.
5. Student support services (including services for students who have a disability that requires some adjustment in their teaching or learning environment).

You are responsible for familiarising yourself with this information. This means that you cannot say "I didn't know" if you violate any regulations referred to in this document.

CONTINUAL COURSE IMPROVEMENT

Periodically student evaluative feedback on the course is gathered, using among other means, UNSW's Course and Teaching Evaluation and Improvement (CATEI) Process. Student feedback is taken seriously, and continual improvements are made to the course based in part on such feedback.

COURSE SCHEDULE**PSYC3311: LANGUAGE AND COGNITION**

Week		Lecture 1 Mon 2-3	Lecture 2 Tue 11-12	Tutorial/ practical
1	Feb 27 – Mar 2	1: MT Introduction	2: MT Do animals have language?	-
2	Mar 5 – Mar 9	3: MT Phonology	4: MT Phonology	-
3	Mar 12 – Mar 16	5: MT Speech recognition	6: MT Speech recognition	-
4	Mar 19 – Mar 23	7: MT Spoken word recognition	8: MT Spoken word recognition	Abstract phonology
5	Mar 26 – Mar 30	9: MT Phonological recoding	10: MT Phonological mediation	Lexical processing
6	Apr 2 – Apr 5	11: MT Orthographic processing	12: MT Orthographic processing	Introduction to project
Easter Break (including Friday Week 6)				
7	Apr 16 - Apr 20	13: MT Morphology	14: MT Morphology	Project discussion
8	Apr 23 – Apr 27	15: MT Sentence Context	16: MT Syntax	Project discussion
9	Apr 30 - May 4	17: MT Syntax	18: MT Sentence processing	Present project
10	May 7 - May 11	19: MT Sentence processing	20: SMc Aphasia	Sentence processing
11	May 14 - May 18	21: SMc Aphasia	NO CLASS	Use of discourse
12	May 21 – May 25	22: SMc Cognitive neuropsychology	23: SMc Communication disorders	Use of discourse
13	May 28 – May 1	24: SMc Communication disorders	NO CLASS	