

Psycholinguistics Syllabus

Time:	Tuesday & Thursday 11:00-12:15
Place:	CL 227
Web:	http://courseweb.pitt.edu/
Instructor:	Dr. Suzanne Curtin
Office:	CL 2806
Phone:	412-624-5933
Email:	scurtin@pitt.edu
Office Hours:	Thursdays 1:00 – 3:00

Course Description:

Psycholinguistics is a broad field of research spanning from speech perception to sentence processing to acquisition to modeling. Rather than surveying a variety of topics, this course will focus on phonetics and phonology within psycholinguistic research. To this end, we will explore such topics as infant and adult speech perception and word recognition (spoken and visual), and infant word learning and reading. Models of word recognition and memory (cohort, trace, symbolism versus connectionism, etc.) will be examined in conjunction with a variety of psycholinguistic processes. Models of categorization will also be evaluated in terms of speech perception, segmentation, and word learning. Throughout the course we will consider the relationship between theoretical linguistic concepts and constructs, and psycholinguistic data.

Required Reading: A list of articles is attached. All articles are available either in electronic format (downloadable pdf or otherwise) through the electronic journals subscribed to by the university library or by old-school photocopying at the library (very few).

Course Requirements: Class attendance and participation is required in addition to the readings, presentations and two squibs (short papers approximately 10 – 20 pages). The breakdown of requirements is the following:

Participation **10%**

-- Everyone is required to submit questions pertaining to the readings the day before class when we encounter a new topic. These questions will not only benefit the person leading the discussion (see below), but will also encourage a lively discussion.

Presentations: **25%**

-- Everyone will present 1 paper and lead the discussion for that particular day

Squib 1: **25%**

Squib 2: **40%**

This is a tentative schedule that is subject to change depending on all our interests.

Schedule:	Topic & Reading:	
Week 1 01/07-01/09	Getting Organized Introduction/Overview What is Psycholinguistics?	
Week 2 01/14-01/16	Speech Perception -- adults	
Week 3 01/21-01/23	Speech Perception --- infants	
Week 4 01/28-01/30	Perception	
Week 5 02/04-02/06	Speech Segmentation -- adult -- infants	
Week 6 02/11-02/13	Statistical Learning/Rule Learning -- speech and non-speech	
Week 7 02/18-02/20	Word Learning	
Week 8 02/25-02/27	Categories and Representations	Squib 1 Due
Week 9 03/02-03/09	Spring Break	
Week 10 03/11	Exemplar models	
Week 10 03/13	no class	
Week 11 03/18-03/20	Exemplar models Word Recognition	
Week 12 03/25-03/27	Word Recognition	
Week 13 04/01-04/03	Connectionism versus Rules	
Week 14 04/08-04/10	Reading	
Week 15 04/15-04/17	Dyslexia	
Week 16 04/22	Wrap-up	Squib 2 Due
Week 16 04/24	no class	

Students with Disabilities: If you have a disability for which you may need to request accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the Office of Disability Resources and Services, 216 William Pitt Union, (412-648-7890/412-383-7355 TTY) as early as possible in the semester. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for the course.