

**AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**

ENGLISH 232: PSYCHOLINGUISTICS
10:00-10:50 MWF
Fisk 339

Dr. Rula L. Diab
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Office hours: MWF 11-12
or by appt.
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Course Objectives

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the psychological processes that underlie linguistic behavior and to familiarize them with the major issues related to how the human mind/brain supports the acquisition, production, and comprehension of language. Topics include theories of the language-thought relationship, language processing, language production, language and the brain, language acquisition, theories of language learning, and bilingualism.

Resources Available to Students

Course Packet

Materials from several academic journals and textbooks will be provided as a course packet, available from the AUB bookstore.

Recommended Textbooks

Aitchison, J. (1998). *The articulate mammal: An introduction to psycholinguistics* (4th ed.). London: Routledge.

Field, J. (2003). *Psycholinguistics: A resource book for students*. London: Routledge.

Foster-Cohen, S. H. (1999). *An introduction to child language development*. London: Longman.

Gleason, J., & Ratner, N. (1993). *Psycholinguistics*. Fort Worth, Texas: Harcourt Brace.

Pinker, S. (1994). *The language instinct*. New York: Morrow.

Scovel, T. (1998). *Psycholinguistics*. Oxford University Press.

Whitney, P. (1998). *The psychology of language*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.

Grading Criteria

- Quiz I, Quiz II, & Final Exam (22% each)
- Assignments:
 - ✓ Two Essays/Reaction Papers (5% each)
 - ✓ Child Language Data Collection Report (7%)
 - ✓ Article Review (7%)
- Class Participation (10%)

Tentative Schedule

Week/ Dates	Topics/Readings	Assignments*
1 Feb. 12, 14, & 16	Introduction and Overview of Course Requirements; Introduction to Psycholinguistics; The Nature of Language PINKER, CHAPTER 1; FROMKIN, RODMAN, & HYAMS (FRH), CHAPTER 1; WHITNEY, CHAPTER 1	
2 Feb. 19, 21, & 23	The Nature of Language (continued); Theories of the Language-Thought Relationship WHITNEY, CHAPTER 4	
3 Feb. 26, 28, & Mar. 2	Theories of the Language-Thought Relationship (continued); Language and the Brain “LANGUAGE AND THE BRAIN”; FRH, CHAPTER 2	Due: Assignment I Essay on the language-thought relationship
4 Mar. 5, 7, & 9	Language Processing: The Recognition of Spoken Words “ADULT LANGUAGE PROCESSING”; WHITNEY, CHAPTER 5	
5 Mar. 12, 14, & 16	Language Processing: The Recognition of Spoken Words (continued)	
6 Mar. 19, 21, & 23	Language Processing: Visual Word Recognition WHITNEY, CHAPTER 6	QUIZ I
7 Mar. 26, 28, & 30	Sentence Processing WHITNEY, CHAPTER 7; Language Production SCOVEL, CHAPTER 3; WHITNEY, CHAPTER 9; “ERRORS IN SPEECH PRODUCTION AND PERCEPTION”	
Easter Vacation		
8 April 11 & 13	Theories of First Language Acquisition; Stages in First Language Acquisition “THEORIES OF LANGUAGE ACQUISITION”; “MILESTONES IN MOTOR AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT”; FRH, CHAPTER 8 (PP. 341-368); FOSTER-COHEN, CHAPTER 2	Due: Assignment II Language and the brain
9 April 16, 18, & 20	First Language Acquisition (continued): Analyzing Children’s Language; Factors Influencing Language Development; <i>Baby Talk</i> “HOW ADULTS TALK TO YOUNG CHILDREN”; FOSTER-COHEN, CHAPTER 5	

Week/ Dates	Topics/Readings	Assignments*
10 April 23, 25 & 27	First Language Acquisition (continued)	QUIZ II
11 April 30, May 2 & 4	Second Language Acquisition and Bilingualism FOSTER-COHEN, CHAPTER 7 (PP. 154-163); FRH, CHAPTER 8 (PP. 374-384)	
12 May 7, 9, & 11	Second Language Acquisition and Bilingualism (cont'd); Oral Reports: Article Reviews	Due: Assignment III Child Language Data Collection Report
13 May 14, 16, & 18	Oral Reports: Article Reviews	
14 May 21, 23, & 25	Oral Reports: Article Reviews	Due: Assignment IV Written Report: Review of psycholinguistics article
15 May 28 & 30	Oral Reports: Article Reviews	

* **Specific guidelines for each assignment will be distributed and discussed in class at least two weeks before the assignment due date.**

Course Policies

Grading

Grades are not assigned on a curve.

Attendance

You are expected to be punctual, to attend all sessions, and to participate in all in-class discussion and activities. Needless to say, there is no makeup for in-class work, and you will be held accountable for any material covered during your absence. Participation in this course can be satisfied by contributing to the discussion in class and by asking questions. You are also encouraged to communicate with me by e-mail and stop by my office if you want to ask a question or discuss any aspect of the course. I am always happy to schedule appointments for those who cannot attend my regular office hours.

Academic Integrity

You are expected to uphold AUB's Code of Student Conduct (see Student Handbook). Cheating and plagiarism are violations of the University's academic conduct regulations and are subject to disciplinary action, which might lead to a Dean's warning, suspension, or even expulsion from the university.