

The University of Winnipeg  
Department of Psychology

PSYC-2620, Section 001  
Psycholinguistics

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION**

This course provides an examination of the various models and approaches to language behaviour, with particular emphasis on contemporary psycholinguistic theory and research. Topics include language acquisition, the physiological and cognitive processes mediating language behaviour, semantic considerations, symbolic behaviour, animal communication, and the cultural context of language. This course may be of particular interest to students anticipating graduate study in communication disorders and psycholinguistics.

Prerequisite: Psychology 1000

**COURSE INFORMATION**

Instructor:	Dr. A. Desroches
Office Hours:	By appointment
e-mail:	a.desroches@uwinnipeg.ca
Scheduled Time:	Tuesdays & Thursdays, 11:30-12:45 pm**
	** Note that ONLY tests will be in the scheduled slot, all other materials are posted online, and the format is mostly asynchronous. See the attached schedule.
Format:	Hybrid Online

**TEXTBOOK**

Required text: D. Ludden, *The Psychology of Language: An Integrated Approach*, (2016). Sage Publications, Inc.

\*\*\*Supplementary readings will be posted to Nexus as necessary.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Psycholinguistics is the study of how people produce and understand language. It is a branch of cognitive science, which is the study of mental processes. This course will cover many areas of research, including: the structure of language; language acquisition; speech perception and production; sentence processing; reading; language and the brain; and language disorders. The goal of the course is to familiarize you with psychological phenomena related to language, theories that try to explain how and why these phenomena occur, and experimental evidence supporting or challenging these theories.

**COURSE MATERIAL**

Lectures, assigned videos, and assigned readings. Lectures will be posted as narrated slides, separated into mini lessons (approximately 5-8 per week, depending on content). This is done to create material that is more manageable units in this online format. When necessary, these will be augmented with videos (links will be provided) that I have curated to help meet weekly learning objectives.

Readings are assigned from the required text to complement the lessons. Not everything in the lecture slides will be in the readings and assigned videos, and not everything in the readings and assigned videos will be discussed in the lecture slides. But assume that ANY/ALL of it will be on the tests. Approximately 20% of the test questions are from the material only covered in the text.

## EVALUATION

### **Term Tests (3 tests, worth 25% each)**

There will be three term tests, **each worth 25%** of your final grade. Tests have assigned dates and times (see below). Tests are designed to assess your knowledge of the material presented in the lectures, assigned videos, and readings. Each test may consist of any or all of the following formats: multiple choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blanks, short answer, and long answer questions.

Tests are closed book and must be completed without the aid of any materials including but not limited to: notes, textbook, digital resources, or anything similar. Also, students may not consult with other individuals (including classmates) through any means of communication during the test.

**You are expected to be available at the assigned test times. Please see the “Accommodation for Illness & Extenuating Circumstances” below.**

### **\*\*\*Notice Regarding Remote Test and Exam Proctoring**

*Tests/exams are proctored through a live Zoom meeting and may also be recorded locally for later review. Proctors will be monitoring for any evidence of academic dishonesty. Each proctor will monitor a small group of students simultaneously. Students must sit and face an engaged camera to enable monitoring. Microphones can be muted. After being reviewed for academic dishonesty, any recordings made will be promptly deleted if no such evidence is found.*

*As part of this monitoring, please note:*

- Each student’s name and everything within their camera’s view, including their face, body and background, will be visible to the proctor and to the other students within the group.*
- If a student uses the chat feature, anything written will be visible to all meeting participants.*
- If a student chooses to un-mute their microphone, anything said will be heard by all meeting participants.*

*Zoom has been configured to disable students from recording the test/exam. Information regarding Zoom’s data collection, including a link to its privacy policy, can be found at <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/privacy/zoom-privacy-notice.html>. Student personal information is collected under the University of Winnipeg Act and 36(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. For information regarding privacy at UWinnipeg, contact Dan Elves, Senior Information and Privacy Officer, at [da.elves@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:da.elves@uwinnipeg.ca) or 204.988.7538.*

### **Weekly Quizzes (11 quizzes, worth 25% total, lowest quiz grade will be dropped)**

The remainder of your grade (**25%**) will be based on your ability to demonstrate ongoing learning of course material, assessed through weekly quizzes. Each quiz will be made up of approximately 10-15 questions in any/all of the following formats: multiple choice, fill in the blank, true/false, matching, short answer. Questions will be randomly selected for each student from a pool of questions, such that not every student will be given the same questions; however, they will all be of a similar difficulty level. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped, and your grade will be based on the average of your 10 best quizzes.

One quiz will be posted for each week on Nexus at the same time as weekly lecture materials (11 weekly quizzes in total). You may complete the quiz at any point throughout the week; however, they must be completed by the end of the week (Sunday evenings at 11:59 pm). Please see the timetable below for quiz due dates.

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You will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz from the point that you start it. Please make sure that you are free of distractions and have the time to complete the quiz. Only one attempt will be allowed. For quizzes, you may access your course notes or textbook while you complete the quiz. However, quizzes must be completed by each student on their own. You cannot consult other individuals, including classmates, during the quiz. You are also not allowed to use online resources like Google search (or similar) to assist you in finding the answers to questions. Once completed, please refrain from communicating about a quiz's contents until after the weekly deadline has passed for that quiz.

**\*\* BONUS Quiz\*\***

There is a **1% bonus** assigned to an additional quiz about the contents of this course syllabus/outline. This can be completed at any point throughout the month of September and can be completed as many times as you would like until you have gotten all items correct.

**Accommodation for Illness & Extenuating Circumstances**

Tests will be completed via NEXUS on the scheduled date (Zoom proctored), at the class time assigned to your section. Missing a test without arrangement would normally result in a grade of zero. For circumstances beyond students' control; however, accommodation may be allowed at the instructor's discretion. These circumstances might include:

- medical, disability, or family emergencies.
- official university extracurricular academic or athletic conflicts\*
- religious conflicts per university policy\*
- having 3 or more tests within 24 hours and our test is the final one scheduled in that period\*

\*Requires at least 2 weeks' notice. For religious or disability accommodations, also see the final page of this syllabus.

I recognize that we are in a global pandemic, which may warrant more flexibility concerning family matters or medical conflicts. Please err on the side of contacting me to discuss such constraints, even if I ultimately ask you to stick to the original schedule. Under normal circumstances, accommodation would not typically be granted for scheduled travel, vacation, regularly scheduled employment, and other matters of personal choice or time management.

Accommodation for missed quizzes will be rare and require a reason that covers the entire week the quiz was available to be completed. That is, because the quizzes are short and available for the entire week, something that comes up at the last minute generally will not be accepted as an excuse.

**To request an accommodation, contact me as soon as possible.** Absent unusual circumstances (e.g., being literally unable to use email or phones), the deadline for requests is 24 hours after the scheduled test time. In all cases, please contact me as soon as possible rather than late or not at all. The instructor reserves the right to require third-party documentation before granting any accommodation requests, which may be verified with its source. Note that obtaining documentation does not guarantee accommodation; requests will be based on the totality of the circumstances at the instructor's discretion.

**COVID-19 Exception.** If you request to postpone a test because you are experiencing cold or flu-like symptoms that meet the Manitoba criteria for COVID-19 testing, do **not** seek a physician's note as documentation. Instead, obtain a COVID-19 test at one of the provincial testing sites (according to public health guidelines, you should be doing this anyway if symptomatic). A screenshot showing that you were tested (not the test results themselves) will be considered sufficient documentation to grant accommodation. Include your name, test date, and the test location but please **blank out** your date of birth, PHIN, and the test result. See: <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/>

Students who miss a test for an approved reason are then committed to attending on the designated makeup date (TBD). Missing or changing a makeup test date is subject to the same policies as missing a regularly scheduled test. A missed makeup test will likely be rescheduled to a common session at the end of the exam period.

On rare occasions, severe extenuating circumstances (e.g., illness, injury, or challenging personal circumstance) can interfere with one's academic goals to the point where successfully completing a class is no longer possible. Students who require substantial or repeated accommodation should consider the university's policies on retroactive withdrawals:  
<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/academic-advising/appeals.html>

### **How to do well in this course**

*View and think critically about all assigned materials.* I cover most of the important material in the lectures that you won't find in the readings. Please view all narrated presentations and assigned videos and take notes. Also, make sure that you do the reading. Some things in the text won't be covered in the lectures, but you are still responsible for this material. You may want to do the reading first, then listen to the lectures. This will give you some background to better situate your learning.

*Speak up.* If you don't understand something, please send me a message or email. We can discuss questions over email or set up a zoom meeting if necessary.

### **GRADES**

Please note carefully that the cutoffs provided below are tentative guidelines that the course instructor will follow, but unofficial grades based on these tentative guidelines below do not necessarily correspond to the official final grades awarded by the University administration. Final grades shall be reviewed by the Department Review Committee and may be subject to change. Indication of tentative letter grade cut-offs and a statement that the grades are tentative until approved, and can be adjusted by the Instructor, the departmental DRC, or Senate before approval.

A+	95 – 100%
A	86 – 94.5%
A-	80 – 85.5%
B+	75 – 79.5%
B	70 – 74.5%
C+	65 – 69.5%
C	60 – 64.5%
D	50 – 59.5%
F	0 – 49.5%

### **TENTATIVE TEST SCHEDULE**

There are three term tests tentatively scheduled for the dates below, although the professor reserves the right to change these dates if necessary. You will be responsible for materials covered in the lectures, assigned videos, as well as for material from the textbook chapters listed.

TEST 1: Thursday, October 7, 11:30-12:45pm

TEST 2: Tuesday, November 16, 11:30-12:45pm

TEST 3: TBA (during the December exam period)

### **OTHER IMPORTANT DATES**

September 6 – University closed for Labour Day

September 7– Lectures begin for this course

September 30 – University closed for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (make up day, Dec. 8)

October 10 – 16 – Fall Reading Week

October 11 – University closed for Thanksgiving/Indigenous People's Day

November 11, 2020 – University closed for Remembrance Day (make up day, Dec. 7)

**November 16 – Final day to withdraw from courses without penalty**

December 8, 2020 – Last day of class for this course

### **ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

Students should be familiar with various items in the Regulations and Policies section of the Course Calendar dealing with academic regulations and policies including Senate appeals and academic misconduct (e.g. plagiarism, cheating). The information is available at:

<http://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/regulationsandpolicies.pdf>.

Students facing a charge of academic or non-academic misconduct may choose to contact the University of Winnipeg Students' Association (UWSA) where a student advocate will be available to answer any questions about the process, help with building a case, and ensuring students have access to support. For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit their website at [www.theuwsa.ca/academic-advocacy](http://www.theuwsa.ca/academic-advocacy) or call 204-786-9780.

### **SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Students with documented disabilities, temporary or chronic medical conditions, requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams or during lectures/laboratories are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 204.786.9771 or <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibilityservices/> to discuss appropriate options. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential.

### **RESPECTFUL WORKING AND LEARNING**

All students, faculty and staff have the right to participate, learn and work in an environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. The UW Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy may be found online at [www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect](http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect).

### **RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY POLICY**

Students may choose not to attend classes or write examinations on holy days of their religion, but they must notify their instructors at least two weeks in advance. Instructors will then provide opportunity for students to make-up work and/or examinations without penalty. A list of religious holidays can be found in the 2020-2021 Undergraduate Academic Calendar, in the section, **Important Notes** (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/dates.html>).

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Week	Dates	Materials Posted	Topics	Reading	Quiz Due
Week 1	Sept. 7 & 9	07-Sep-21	Introduction/Overview Overview of Language		12-Sep-21
Week 2	Sept. 14 & 16	14-Sep-21	Biology of Language The Science of Language	Ch. 1 Ch. 2	19-Sep-21
Week 3	Sept. 21 & 23	21-Sep-21	Language and the Brain Speech Perception: Part 1	Ch. 3	26-Sep-21
Week 4	Sept. 28 Sept. 30	28-Sep-21	Speech Perception: Part 2 <b>National Day for Truth and Reconciliation</b>		03-Oct-21
Week 5	Oct. 5 <b>Oct. 7</b>	28-Sep-21	Infant Speech Perception <b>TEST 1</b>	Ch. 3	no quiz
<b>Reading Week</b>	<b>Oct. 10-16</b>		<b>Reading Week</b>		
Week 6	Oct 19 & 21	18-Oct-21	Speech Production Development of Language Production: Part 1	Ch. 4	24-Oct-21
Week 7	Oct. 26 & 28	25-Oct-21	Development of Language Production: Part 2 Morphology: The Meaning of Words	Ch. 4 Ch. 5	31-Oct-21
Week 8	Nov. 2 & 4	01-Nov-21	Semantics: The Meaning of Words Sentence Processing: Part 1	Ch. 5 Ch. 6	07-Nov-21
Week 9	Nov. 9 Nov. 11	08-Nov-21	Sentence Processing: Part 2 <b>Remembrance Day</b>	Ch. 6	no quiz
Week 10	<b>Nov. 16</b> Nov. 18	17-Nov-21	<b>TEST 2</b> Language in Exceptional Cases		21-Nov-21
Week 11	Nov. 23 & 25	22-Nov-21	Reading: Part 1 Reading: Part 2	Ch. 8	28-Nov-21
Week 12	Nov. 30 & Dec. 2	29-Nov-21	Bilingualism: Part 1 Bilingualism: Part 2	Ch. 9	05-Dec-21
Week 13 (make up)	Dec. 7 & 8	06-Dec-21	Signed Language Language and Technology	Ch. 10 Ch. 13	12-Dec-21

**TENTATIVE LECTURE SCHEDULE**

\*\*Note that some topics may not be covered, and dates may change as the term progresses.

\*also note that the due date for the Week 13 quiz is tentative, and may change depending on the final exam schedule