

Psychology/Linguistics 347 Psychology of Language Autumn 2009

Instructor: Lee Osterhout
Class Time: MWF 1:00-2:20
Classroom: Savory 138

Contact Information

Office: Guthrie 225
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Instructor's e-mail: losterho@u.washington.edu (use only if necessary!)

Websites:

Class website: <http://faculty.washington.edu/losterho/347.htm>
Osterhout Lab website: <http://faculty.washington.edu/losterho/erplab.htm>

Course Synopsis: In this course, we will review what is known about the psychological and biological underpinnings of human language. One goal of this course is to introduce the student to the general issues and questions that motivate research in this area. A second goal is to critically evaluate current theory and data. Topics to be covered include speech physiology; language structure; speech perception and production; word and sentence processing; language acquisition; and the neurobiology of language behavior.

Readings:

Required text: Pinker, Steven (2007). *The language instinct*. Harper Perennial Modern Classics Edition. Additional required readings are specified on the Reading List (see class website).

Class Schedule:

Date	Topic
Sept 30	Introductory comments and syllabus review
Oct 2	Language origins and language change
5	Development of writing
7	Sounds: physics and physiology of speech
9	Sounds: phonetics and phonology
12	Speech perception
14	No Class
16	No Class
19	Speech production
21	Words: morphemes and morphology
23	Exam 1

	26	Word processing
	28	Word processing
	30	Sentences: syntax
Nov	2	Sentence processing
	4	Sentence processing
	6	Semantics and discourse
	9	Language development
	11	No Class: University Holiday
	13	Language Development
	16	Exam 2
	18	Language and brain: Disorders
	20	Language disorders
	23	Language disorders
	25	No Class
	27	No Class: University Holiday
	30	Animal communication
Dec	2	Animal communication
	4	Origins revisited
	7	To be decided (with input from class)
	9	To be decided (with input from class)
	11	Exam 3

Other Course Information

Course Responsibilities:

1. Attendance: Although some lecture notes will be provided, it is highly beneficial to attend class. However, I do not take attendance.
2. Reading: You'll be expected to know the material in the chapters assigned from the book and in the readings, except when indicated otherwise, and it's a good idea to keep up with this material as we go.
3. Exams: Students will be evaluated by means of three exams, each of which will be worth 33 or 34 points (for a total of 100 possible points).
4. Extra Credit: Periodically throughout the quarter, students will have the opportunity to receive extra credit points for optional activities related to the lecture material.

General Policies:

1. Grading guarantee: Exams will be returned within two weeks of the exam date. If it takes me longer than that, bonus points will be awarded at the rate of one point per day until they are graded.
2. Missed exams: If you know in advance, notify me to make arrangements. Make-ups will only be given in cases where some emergency forced you to miss the exam.
3. Any student engaging in any form of academic misconduct will lose credit for the relevant assignment and will be subjected to the appropriate university judicial proceedings.
4. *Please* see me if you experience problems in the course. I will do *everything I can* to help you learn the material. You are always welcome in my office.
5. If you require assistance or accommodation (e.g., testing, note-taking, etc.) due to a disability, or you have questions related to such accommodations, speak to me as soon as possible.

Grading Scale (subject to change if necessary):

Point Total	Course Grade	Point Total	Course Grade	Point Total	Course Grade
93-100	4.0	80	2.7	68	1.5
90	3.7	78	2.5	66	1.3
88	3.5	76	2.3	63	1.0
86	3.3	73	2.0	60	0.7
83	3.0	70	1.7	0-59	0.0