



**MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF HUMAN SCIENCES
DEPARTMENTS OF LINGUISTICS AND PSYCHOLOGY
LING214, PSY238: INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLINGUISTICS**

Year and Semester: 2011, Semester 2

Unit convenors: Prof. Linda Cupples, Dr. Jan Tent, Dr. Britta Biedermann

[Prerequisites / Corequisites: LING110 or PSY104 and PSY 105 or admission to PGQual(HUS)]

Students in this unit should read this unit outline carefully at the start of semester. It contains important information about the unit. If anything in it is unclear, please consult one of the teaching staff in the unit.

ABOUT THIS UNIT

- This unit (worth 3 credit points) introduces a psychological perspective into the study of language. In particular, it is concerned with the way in which people's knowledge of language is represented in the brain, and the psychological processes that are involved in acquiring and using that knowledge. Topics of study include: word recognition; skilled reading and reading development; acquired and developmental reading disorders; acquired spelling disorders; sentence comprehension; semantic memory and the neuropsychology of semantic memory; language production; aphasia; and first language acquisition, both normal and disordered.
- This unit covers theoretical and empirical research that is directly relevant to understanding typical language processes as well as language disorder. It provides valuable background knowledge for third year units such as SPH311 (Acquired Speech and Language Disorders), and for postgraduate coursework degrees such as the Master in Speech and Language Pathology.

It is University policy that the University issued email account will be used for official University communication. All students are required to access their University account frequently.

TEACHING STAFF

- Convenor: Dr. Jan Tent (Building C5A Room 528; Ext. 9659; Email jan.tent@mq.edu.au) – Consultation time by appointment
- Co-Convenor: Prof. Linda Cupples (Building C5A Room 520; Ext. 8788; Email linda.cupples@mq.edu.au) – Consultation time by appointment
- Co-Convenor of Lecture Series: Dr. Britta Biedermann (Email britta.biedermann@mq.edu.au)
- Other (Tutoring) Staff:
 - Ms. Elisabeth Beyersmann (Email lisi.beyersmann@mq.edu.au)
 - Ms. Hua-Chen Wang (Email huachen.wang@mq.edu.au)
 - Ms. Maryam Mostajir (Email maryam.mostajir@students.mq.edu.au)

CLASSES

- Lectures: There are 13 2-hour lectures for this unit. Day students are expected to attend one 2-hour lecture each week. Day and evening students will be able to access i-lectures via the unit's Blackboard site. Lectures are held on Thursdays from 11am-1pm in E7B 100. The lecture programme is outlined below and on the unit website: <https://learn.mq.edu.au>
- Tutorials: There are 12 tutorials for this unit. Students are expected to attend one 1-hour tutorial per week. Tutorials begin in the **second** week of semester. The tutorial programme is outlined on the unit website. Six optional tutorial times are offered as follows:

Day	Time	Room	Name of Tutor
Tuesday	11.00am	C3A 302	Lisi Beyersmann
Tuesday	3.00pm	W5C 303	Hua-Chen Wang
Wednesday	10.00am	C3A 302	Lisi Beyersmann
Wednesday	4.00pm	C3B 312	Maryam Mostajir
Wednesday	6.00pm	C3A 302	Maryam Mostajir
Thursday	10.00am	W5A 204	Hua-Chen Wang

- **NB: Students MUST attend a minimum of 80% of tutorials in order to pass the unit.**

REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED TEXTS AND/OR MATERIALS

- The prescribed text for this unit is: Harley, T. A. (2008). *The psychology of language: From data to theory (3rd edition)*. Hove, East Sussex: Psychology Press Ltd. One copy of this text is available in the library reserve section.
- See the unit website for details of other required readings for tutorials and assessment exercises.

UNIT WEB PAGE

The web page for this unit can be found at: <https://learn.mq.edu.au>

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The learning outcomes of this unit are a basic understanding of theories and research in psycholinguistics. Students should understand the kinds of questions that psycholinguists ask and the methods of data collection they use in their attempts to shed light on these questions. Students should also acquire some knowledge of language disorder, and the way in which the performance of people with atypical or disordered language can be used by psycholinguists to evaluate their theories of language processing.

GRADUATE CAPABILITIES

Graduates of this unit will develop the following capabilities.

1. *Discipline specific knowledge and skills* as described above under “Learning Outcomes”
2. *Critical analytical and integrative thinking*. Students are actively encouraged throughout the unit to focus on evaluating and integrating information presented to them during the course of both lectures and tutorials. Psycholinguistic theories are evaluated in terms of the evidence for and against them, and published research papers are evaluated with respect to the clarity and logic of the arguments presented in them, methodology, and writing style (in particular, see Assessment exercise 1).
3. *Problem solving and research capability*. Students are provided with alternative theoretical perspectives and a range of empirical data in a variety of areas of psycholinguistics. They are encouraged to make their own decisions about which theory provides the best account of the available empirical evidence. They are also required to use their knowledge of statistics in interpreting results from a class experiment (see Assessment exercise 2). Students are not required to conduct statistical analyses. They are provided with data in the form of means and/or medians (as measures of central tendency), and the output from statistical procedures (usually t-tests and/or analysis of variance [ANOVA]). They receive guidance on interpretation of the findings during tutorial classes.
4. *Effective communication*. Students are provided with detailed information about how to structure a piece of academic writing (in the form of a research report). They are also alerted to the importance of being brief, clear and concise in their writing (by the imposition of length constraints). Assessment exercise 2 reflects in part their abilities in this regard.

TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGY

- This unit is taught using a combination of lectures and tutorials.
- Tutorials are activity and discussion-based. Students will at various times be expected to have read prescribed articles/chapters in advance, considered their answers to pre-set questions, and to participate in small groups.
- A week-by-week list of the topics to be covered in lectures is included in the following table.

Week	Date	Topic
Week 1	Aug 4	What is psycholinguistics? Course outline (Dr Britta Biedermann)
Week 2	Aug 11	Learning to read (Dr Eva Marinus)
Week 3	Aug 18	Developmental dyslexia and dysgraphia (Dr Saskia Kohnen)
Week 4	Aug 25	Skilled adult reading and writing, and acquired dyslexia and dysgraphia (TBA)
Week 5	Sep 1	Models of speech perception (Dr Ivan Yuen)
Week 6	Sep 8	Language development in infancy (Dr Nan Xu)
Week 7	Sep 15	Theories of language acquisition (Assoc Prof Rozz Thornton)
		Mid-Semester Break
Week 8	Oct 6	Development of phonology and morphology (TBC) (Prof Katherine Demuth)
Week 9	Oct 13	Skilled language comprehension: Morphology (Lisi Beyersmann)
Week 10	Oct 20	Eye tracking and comprehension in adults (Dr Jon Brock)
Week 11	Oct 27	Skilled language production (Dr Britta Biedermann)
Week 12	Nov 3	Acquired disorders of language production (Dr Britta Biedermann)
Week 13	Nov 10	Skilled syntax and parsing (Dr Jan Tent)

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ASSESSMENT AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Assessment in this course is directly related to the desired learning outcomes in the following ways.

- Students' basic understanding of theories and research in psycholinguistics is assessed in an end-of-year exam (Assessment exercise 3) and in tutorial group exercises and discussions.
- The ability to read, understand and provide a critical analysis of empirical research articles in psycholinguistics is assessed using a written critique (Assessment exercise 1).
- The ability to interpret empirical data in relation to theoretical questions/issues is assessed using a research report (Assessment exercise 2).

- Students' familiarity with psycholinguistic methods of data collection is enhanced by encouraging their participation in a psycholinguistic experiment (Assessment exercise 4).

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

As indicated above, assessment in this unit has four components. Failure to **complete** any of components 1 to 3 will result in failure of the unit as a whole. The four components are:

1. A written critique of a published research paper, which can be written in point form if you wish. The paper to be critiqued for this assignment will be made available to you in week 2. The critique should be a maximum of 1,200 words (four double-spaced A4 pages), and printed in a 12-point font (i.e. 10 cpi) with 2.54 cm margins. The word limit includes in-text referencing but does not include the title page or the reference list at the end. Due date is 10.00am Monday September 5th (worth 20%).
2. A research report based on a class experiment. The data for this assignment will be made available to you in week 8. The report should be a maximum of 2,400 words (eight double-spaced A4 pages), and printed in 12-point font with 2.54 cm margins. The word limit includes in-text referencing but does not include the reference list at the end, nor the tables and figures, abstract, title page or appendices. Due date is 10am Monday October 31st (worth 30%).
3. A closed-book end-of-year exam comprising short-answer and essay questions and covering both lecture and tutorial content (worth 45%).
4. Participation in a psycholinguistic experiment (worth 5%).

Students who are absent because of medical or other extenuating circumstances must submit a Request for Special Consideration (and Professional Authority if reason is medical) clearly stating the reasons for the absence. The form can be downloaded from <http://www.registrar.mq.edu.au/Forms/APScons.pdf>.

Students' marked assignments will in general, be returned to them within 3 to 5 weeks of submission. **Please note that assignments cannot be accepted after the return of marked materials. Assignments can only be submitted via the labelled boxes in the Faculty Student Administration Centre, Level 3 C3A**

- All assignments submitted must be accompanied by a completed and signed coversheet from <http://www.ling.mq.edu.au/support/coversheet.htm>
- Note that you must keep a copy of your assignment as proof that it was completed and submitted, just in case the submitted assignment is misplaced or damaged.
- Lateness penalty will be applied as 5% of the total mark for that assignment for every day late, therefore an assignment worth 30% of the total mark for the unit will incur a 1.5 mark deduction every day until the assignment is submitted.
- Request for Extensions for Assignments are granted by the Unit Convenor, Dr. Jan Tent. Ordinarily, no extensions of time for submission of written work will be granted since ample time for its preparation will have been given. If an extension is required for medical or other extenuating circumstances, students may request this in writing

by contacting the unit convenor. Supporting documentary evidence (such as medical certificate, counsellor note, or similar) will need to be produced if requested.

All requests for extensions should be made prior to the due date for the assignment. If an extension is granted the authorisation section of the form must be collected and attached to the assignment. Failure to do so will result in a late penalty being applied as the marker will not know that an extension has been granted.

AFTER AN ASSIGNMENT HAS BEEN SUBMITTED

- Assignments will be returned to students during tutorials. The remaining assignments will then be available for collection from the Faculty Student Administration Centre, Level 3, Building C3A. Office opening hours are 9am to 5pm. Tutors of evening tutorials will return ALL assignments during the late classes.

END OF SEMESTER EXAMS

The University Examination period in Second Half Year 2011 is from November 14th to December 4th. You are expected to present yourself for examination at the time and place designated in the University Examination Timetable. The timetable will be available in Draft form approximately eight weeks before the commencement of the examinations and in Final form approximately four weeks before the commencement of the examinations. <http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au/exam>

The only exception to not sitting an examination at the designated time is because of documented illness or unavoidable disruption. In these circumstances you may wish to consider applying for Special Consideration. Information about unavoidable disruption and the special consideration process is available at <http://www.reg.mq.edu.au/Forms/APSCon.pdf>

If a Supplementary Examination is granted as a result of the Special Consideration process the examination will be scheduled after the conclusion of the official examination period. Students applying to sit for the supplementary examination must check the web for information. Supplementary exams are only offered to students who have completed all other assessments for the unit. You are advised that it is Macquarie University policy not to set early examinations for individuals or groups of students. All students are expected to ensure that they are available until the end of the teaching semester; that is the final day of the official examination period.

Supplementary Exams are only offered to students who have satisfactorily completed all other assessments for the unit and were unable to sit the final exam. Instructions on applying for sitting of a supplementary exam are available from the website, http://www.ling.mq.edu.au/support/process_special.htm. It is the student's responsibility to follow the steps outlined in this website. Students awarded a supplementary will NOT be sent a letter. It is the student's responsibility to check the web and their student email to see whether a supplementary exam has been granted.

Students who are granted to sit for a supplementary exam must make themselves available to sit for the supplementary exam on the specified dates. There will be only one alternative time. It is the student's responsibility to email the convenor to confirm attendance to the supplementary exams.

You are advised that it is Macquarie University policy not to set early examinations for individuals or groups of students. All students are expected to ensure that they are available until the end of the teaching semester, which is the final day of the official examination period.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

The University defines plagiarism as: "Using the work or ideas of another person and presenting this as your own without clear acknowledgement of the source of the work or ideas" (see http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html#glossary). Plagiarism is a serious breach of the University's academic honesty policy and carries significant penalties. You must read the University's practices and procedures on academic honesty, which can be found in the *Handbook of Undergraduate Studies* or on the web at: http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

The policies and procedures explain what academic dishonesty is, how to avoid it, the procedures that will be taken in cases of suspected cases of dishonesty, and the penalties if you are found guilty. Penalties may include a deduction of marks, failure in the unit, and/or referral to the University Discipline Committee.

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON GRADING

Academic Senate has a set of guidelines on the distribution of grades across the range from fail to high distinction. Your final result will include one of these grades plus a standardised numerical grade (SNG).

On occasion your raw mark for a unit (i.e., the total of your marks for each assessment item) may not be the same as the SNG which you receive. For further information please refer to the Macquarie University Handbook or the website at:

<http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Macquarie University provides a range of Academic Student Support Services. Details of these services can be accessed at <http://www.student.mq.edu.au>

On matters pertaining to the regulations, the Registrar's Office should be consulted or, if your difficulties cannot be resolved by these members of staff you should consult the Head of Department.

If you have a major difficulty associated with writing skills, you could enroll in a short course on writing skills. For details go to:

http://www.ling.mq.edu.au/support/writing_skills/index.htm

APPEALS AGAINST GRADES

Please refer to the Faculty of Human Sciences website at:

<http://www.humansciences.mq.edu.au/>