

SPLH 466 – Language Science

Professor: Annie Olmstead, Email: anne.j.olmstead@ku.edu

Office Hours: Wednesday 3:30 – 4:30 & Thursday 11:30-12:30; Dole 3018 – also by appointment

Email contact:

Email is an excellent way to communicate with me. However, I have a lot of students! To ensure that our email exchange is fruitful please make sure you include the following:

1. your full name and the class in which you are a student
2. a brief description of the situation/topic/issue you are writing about
3. a signature

Course Objectives:

Language is a tool that mediates social interactions in every domain of life. The importance of language use in our everyday lives cannot be overstated. Likely because of this, language has been the topic of study and scientific inquiry for centuries. While these efforts have led to many great discoveries about language and the nature of linguistic knowledge, mysteries still exist. In this class, we will examine the many facets of everyday language use as well as the persistent mysteries surrounding linguistic competence. Upon completion of the class, students will be able to:

- Describe the major theories of linguistic competence, speech perception, lexical access and syntactic processing
- Evaluate existing research findings for their relevance to theoretical claims and evaluation
- Interpret and critique new research findings in speech and language processing

This course is designed to meet the requirements of the American Speech-Language- Hearing Association's (ASHA) Knowledge Standard I and III in the areas of Normal Processes and Receptive and Expressive Language. It also meets Standard I only in the area of Social.

Required Text: Fernandez, E.M. & Cairns, H. S. (2010). Fundamentals of Psycholinguistics. Wiley Blackwell. ISBN: 9781405191470 **NOTE:** This text is available of online reading from KU libraries. Additional reading assignments may be posted on Blackboard.

Readings: Readings can be completed before or after the class for which they are assigned.

Grades: The final grade will be broken down as follows.

- In-class discussion – 10 %
- Article discussions – 20%
- Quizzes – 15%
- Lower exam grade – 15%
- Higher exam grade – 20%
- Final – 20%

In-class discussion: At the beginning of each class period, we will have a brief review of the previous classes material. Your in-class discussion grade will be based on your participation in and attentiveness during this review. While you are not required to attend every class, chronic absence will affect your discussion grade negatively. Also, please note, the textbook for this class is supplementary and cannot replace the notes you will take during lecture.

Article discussions: From time to time (see schedule), we will be discussing research articles as a class. You will be required to read articles, submit answers to questions about the articles on blackboard before the in-class discussion and then participate in the class discussion.

Quizzes: Quizzes will be made available 5 days before they are due on blackboard. Quizzes will include questions from the lecture, but please remember that your understanding of lecture material will be helped by reading the assigned pages. You are expected to complete each quiz before 11:59 pm on the day they are due. Please note, quizzes are timed, therefore, you should prepare for the quiz before beginning it.

Blackboard policy: It is your responsibility to keep up with information posted on blackboard. This includes changes to the schedule. These changes may not be announced in class.

Exams: We will have two exams throughout the semester as well as a cumulative final exam. These exams will be comprised of fill-in-the-blank and short answer questions that will test your understanding of concepts we cover as well as the significance of these concepts.

Exam and quiz make-up policy:

Exam and quiz make-ups will be available to those persons who 1) have a university sanctioned absence and have made arrangements with me *before* the scheduled exam and 2) those persons who are ill at the time of the exam and present a doctor's note.

Students who have other reasons to request an exam or quiz make-up are encouraged to do so, but make-ups will only be given at my discretion.

Electronic device policy: Electronic devices are often distracting if used during lecture. Therefore, *please do not use laptops or cell phones during class*. If you need to use a laptop, please see me.

Letter grade	Percentage grade
A	92.5-100%
A-	90.0-92.5%
B+	87.5-90.0%
B	82.5-87.5%
B-	80.0-82.5%
C+	77.5-80.0%
C	72.5-77.5%
C-	70.0-72.5%
D+	67.5-70.0%
D	62.5-67.5%
D-	60.0-62.5%
F	below 60.0

Academic Misconduct:

Students are expected to observe all University guidelines pertaining to academic misconduct. As stated in the University Senate Rules and Regulations (2.6.1):

“Academic misconduct by a student shall include, but not be limited to, disruption of classes; threatening an instructor or fellow student in an academic setting; giving or receiving of unauthorized aid on examinations or in the preparation of notebooks, themes, reports or other assignments; knowingly misrepresenting the source of any academic work; unauthorized changing of grades; unauthorized use of University approvals or forging of signatures; falsification of research results; plagiarizing of another's work; violation of regulations or ethical codes for treatment of human and animal subjects; or otherwise acting dishonestly in research.” Academic misconduct will not be tolerated and will be dealt with in accordance with all University rules and regulations.

Accommodations:

The Academic Achievement and Access Center (AAAC) coordinates academic accommodations and services for all eligible KU students with disabilities. If you have a disability for which you wish to request accommodations and have not contacted the AAAC, please do so as soon as possible. They are located in 22 Strong Hall and can be reached at 785-864-4064 (V/TTY). Information about their services can be found at <http://www.disability.ku.edu>. Please contact me privately in regard to your needs in this course within one week of receiving this syllabus so that appropriate accommodations for this course can be discussed.

If a scheduled requirement is in conflict with a religious observance, you must notify the instructor by email at least 3 weeks before the conflict so that accommodations can be made.