

Psychology 432; Psychology of Language

Fall 2016

Textbook: Language in Mind by Julie Sedivy

Additional readings on Sakai

Prerequisites: Psyc 101 and 230 OR  
Ling 101 and 400

Course requirements and grading schema:

- Daily quizzes – 5% (about 21 quizzes total; we drop the lowest 3 grades, which means that each quiz counts for less than 0.3% of your grade)
- Research paper – 20% (5% first draft and peer review; 15% final draft)
- Three in-class (noncumulative) exams – 50% (16.67% each)
- Final exam (cumulative) – 25%

Grading policy:

Grades will be assigned based on the following cutoffs:

A = 94-100

A- = 90-93

B+ = 87-89

B = 83-86

B- = 80-82

C+ = 77-79

C = 73-76

C- = 70-72

Etc.

If an exam turns out to be harder than anticipated, I will curve grades up, but I will not curve grades down.

The distribution will include approximately 20% A's, 40% B's, 35% C's, and 5% D's/F's.

If the class has 35 students, this means that about 7 will earn A's or A-'s, and about 14 will earn something in the B-range. The other 14 will earn C+ or lower.

### What are daily quizzes?

At the start of every class you will take a short 5-question multiple-choice quiz based on the reading due for that day. These questions are based on content only, and serve to check that you have done your reading. You need a computer, smartphone or tablet connected to the internet to take the quiz, which will become available on Sakai at the start of class.

**THERE ARE NO MAKEUP QUIZZES.** Your lowest three quizzes will be dropped, which is intended to account for days on which you have excused absences. The only exception to this rule is if you have a prolonged illness resulting in 4+ absences, in which case you should contact me asap.

### What will the exams be like?

All exams are multiple choice, true-false, and some short answer.

Each in-class exam will cover ALL of the material presented in class since the last in-class exam. This means all material presented in lecture and/or discussed in class, even if it is not on the powerpoint slides, plus all material from the assigned readings. The final exam will cover all material from the course.

NOTE: You must turn in **both** the exam itself and your bubble sheet at the end of the exam session. A failure to turn in both will result in a zero for that exam.

Final Exam date: Tuesday, Dec. 13, 8am

### Exam Rescheduling and Late policy:

Exams may not be rescheduled except in cases of extreme emergencies or illnesses, and you must contact the instructor as soon as possible. Makeup exams may be different than the regularly scheduled exam, and may be all essay. Final exams may only be rescheduled with an excuse from the Student Health Service or the Dean's Office (as per university policy).

The in-class experiment may only be missed in case of an emergency.

The written assignments are due in class on the date specified. Unexcused late assignments will be penalized 5 points (out of 100) for each day the assignment is late, including weekends, up to a maximum of 50 points. (As an example: if the assignment is due Tuesday, and you turn it in the next Tuesday, you will lose 35 points. This means that if you do work that earns you 90/100, your actual grade will be 55/100). Extensions will only be granted in advance of the due date, and only for legitimate reasons. However, note that it is ALWAYS better to turn in your paper late than not at all. A zero will destroy your grade; partial credit can make the difference between passing and failing the course.

In all cases, contact me as soon as you know of a scheduling problem, and provide a note from Student Health Service to document work missed due to illness.

Attendance: You are expected to be present at all classes, physically and mentally. Attendance is especially mandatory for exams, presentations, and in-class experiments. You are responsible for everything that happens in class, including important announcements. If you are late or not present, you are responsible for getting the notes from a classmate, but you do not need to contact me individually.

Computer and phone use policy: If may use your computer of phone for \*class activities only\*. If you are not writing notes, taking a quiz, or another activity directly related to class, your computer should be closed and your phone muted and stored.

Special needs: I encourage any student with a learning disability or other special need to contact me at the beginning of the semester so that we can make any necessary arrangements for your success in this course.

Religious Observance: Exams and mandatory classes have been scheduled to avoid religious holidays as much as possible. If you anticipate a conflict, let me know **early in the semester**.

### Honor Code

The Honor code is, as always, in effect in this course. Use of books, notes, etc. during an exam is not permitted, and collaboration with others is not permitted for any exams or written assignments. *The Instrument of Student Judicial Governance* requires that you sign a pledge on all written work that says “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this assignment.” This includes all assignments and exams. The first time you hand in an assignment, I expect you to write out the pledge in full. After that, you may simply write “pledge” and sign your name. You may discuss the material with others, but any written work you hand in must be yours alone. If you use someone else’s ideas, you must provide a citation. Cases of suspected cheating or plagiarism will not be evaluated directly by the instructor, but will be referred to the Student Attorney General’s Office.

If you aren’t clear about any of this, ask questions.

**Note:** the introduction to each chapter is listed as section X.0, e.g. 2.0 is the introduction to chapter 2.

Readings cover the listed sections, including all boxes, but not the “digging deeper” sections.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Read / Do for Today</b>
8/23	Introduction	"Who are you" quiz -- can be done at any time
8/25	What we know about our language: Studying language is studying the human mind	Sedivy Chapter 1 (all; 1-7)  Sedivy 2.0, 2.1, 2.2, (pp. 9-23)  24 pages
8/30	What we know 2	Sedivy 2.3 (24-30) [skip 2.4], 2.5, 2.6 (37-50)  20 pages
9/1	The sounds of language	Sedivy 4.0, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 (105-135)  31 pages
9/6	Words, sounds, and concepts	Sedivy 4.4; 5.0, 5.1, 5.2, (135-140; 145-161)  23 pages
9/8	Words and sentences	Sedivy 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6 (161-181)

		21 pages
9/13	Sentence structure	Sedivy 6.0, 6.1, 6.2 (185-206) 21 pages
9/15	<b>EXAM 1</b>	
9/20	Language production	Sedivy chapter 9.0, 9.1, 9.2, 9.3 (329-356) 28 pages
9/22	Language production	Sedivy chapter 9.4, 10.0, 10.1 (356-368; 373-387) 27 pages  DO BY TODAY: Finish both questionnaires
9/27	Discourse and inferences	Sedivy chapter 10.2-10.4 (387-416)  29 pages
9/29	Sociolinguistic variation	The Language files, chapter 10: Language Variation
10/4	Audience design	DO BY TODAY: Code your own data
10/6	Common ground and reference understanding	Sedivy 11.0, 11.1, half of 11.2 (421-443)  22 pages
10/11	<b>NO CLASS UNIVERSITY DAY</b>	
10/13	Meaning and inferences	Sedivy 11.2 (starting at "When do children derive conversational inferences?", 11.3, 11.4 (443-466) 23 pages
10/18	<b>EXAM 2</b>	
10/20	<b>NO CLASS FALL BREAK</b>	
10/25	Discuss experiment findings	Arnold, 2010
10/27	Discuss experiment findings	Read Research Project assignment  Quiz: Details of paper assignment
11/1	Words and meaning	Sedivy 7.0, 7.1, 7.2 (233-252)  20 pages
11/3	Conferences about paper	<b>First draft and peer review due</b>
11/8	Recognizing words in speech and print	Sedivy 7.3, 7.4, 7.5 (252-274)  23 pages
11/10	Fluency and Disfluency	No reading / no quiz  <b>Final Paper Due</b>
11/15	Lexical and Syntactic ambiguity resolution	Sedivy 8.0, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3 (279-306)  28 pages

11/17	Syntactic ambiguity resolution	Sedivy 8.4, 8.5, 8.6 (306-325)  20 pages
11/22	<b>EXAM 3</b>	
11/24	<b>NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING</b>	
11/29	Language Universals	Sedivy chapter 12.0, 12.1, 12.2, (471-492)  22 pages
12/1	Language Universals	Sedivy chapter 12.3,12.4, 12.5  (492-516)  25 pages
12/6	REVIEW	

- Writing center handouts
  - - About College Writing: <http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/college-writing/>
    - Scientific Reports: <http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/scientific-reports/>
    - Organization: <http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/reorganizing-drafts/>
    - Introductions: <http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/introductions/>
    - Conclusions: <http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/conclusions/>
    - Plagiarism: <http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/plagiarism/>
    - The writing center has many other useful handouts, including a number that deal with the "mechanics" of writing - word choice, terms, phrasing, etc. If you master the mechanics, it frees up your attention for the development of your ideas, and improves your audience's ability to understand your point.
- Other writing handouts
  - Dr. Arnold's notes on writing a psychology paper: [https://sakai.unc.edu/access/content/group/31741dcf-84ed-4074-8931-e6a804ea1874/Readings/How\\_To\\_Write\\_Your\\_Paper.doc](https://sakai.unc.edu/access/content/group/31741dcf-84ed-4074-8931-e6a804ea1874/Readings/How_To_Write_Your_Paper.doc)