Psych 413: Psychology of Language
COURSE SYLLABUS – Spring 2014
T/TH: 12:40-2:00 p.m.
I ED 2 0224

Instructor: Annie Lewis
Office: W283 Lagomarcino
Alternate Office: Office hours might be occasionally held in Lago W207A. If so, there will be a sign at Lago W283.
Office Hours: T/TH at 11:00am-12:00pm and by appointment
Email address: lewisa@iastate.edu

Instructor: Jason Geller
Office Hours: By appointment
Email address: jgeller1@aistate.edu

Description of Course

This course is an overview of the interdisciplinary study of language and psychology. It will cover material from linguistics, cognitive psychology, social psychology, developmental psychology, and neuroscience. Required work will include readings from both the assigned textbook and published articles, quizzes, exams, and a final project.

Objectives of the Course

It is expected by the end of this course students will:

1. Have knowledge and an understanding of material broadly drawn from each topic covered,
2. Demonstrate that knowledge and understanding through quizzes and exams,
3. Have a deeper knowledge and understanding of a topic of the student's interest in the psychology of language field,
4. Demonstrate that knowledge and understanding through an in-depth project.

Course Textbook (Required):

This is an excellent text. Tests and quizzes will cover material from the text that will not be stated in lecture. However, it is available both for sale and rent, including renting through Amazon for $25.

**Prerequisites:** Psychology 101.

**Contacting Me:**
To foster a collegial atmosphere, I like to discuss in-depth topics with my students whenever possible. To make sure I am available to you, I will reserve some office time to “by appointment” so those who can not make my office hours have some flexibility in meeting with me.

In order to keep email manageable as well as help me identify and respond quickly to your messages, I suggest that if you need to email me, you name the class and purpose of your email in the subject line. If you want a meeting with me, you might use “Psych 413 – Meeting Request”, or if you have a medical emergency and need to reschedule an exam, you might use “Psych 413 – Test Reschedule”. It may also help to suggest possible meeting times in the body of your message.

If you ask a question by email that is answered in this or an updated version of the syllabus, I may respond with only “Check syllabus”. This helps me manage my time and remain available to my students. If you ask a question about the material I think I can't explain quickly or clearly by email, I may email you back with a request that you come to my office hours or schedule an appointment. This helps me give you the best help possible.

I know emailing and waiting for responses can be frustrating. If you have questions regarding the syllabus, assignments, or due dates, I encourage you check BlackBoard, and then ask them before or after class. To that end, I will make every effort to be available both before and after class. If I appear to be preparing something before lecture, please come up and talk to me anyway. 😊

**Missing Class:**
Attendance is encouraged. You will struggle to achieve a high grade in this class without attending and actively engaging with the lectures. However, if you must miss class, the readings covered in the lecture will be provided online. If you miss class I ask that you read those readings first and then come to me with specific questions. If you meet with me but have not read the material given, I will ask that you do so and return later so I can focus my time on helping your comprehension rather than on reteaching the lecture.

**Grades:**
As this is a 400-level course and most of you are senior students, I expect that the level of performance in this class will be high. There is no curve; if everyone's work is excellent, everyone can achieve an excellent grade.
Quizzes will be graded for completion only, as they are intended to help you learn and study. Tests will be graded by points. The final project will be graded by letter grade.

When giving a letter grade, I am thinking solely in terms of the overall quality of your work. Exceptional work is clearly exceptional, as is work that only meets requirements. However, that letter grade must then be translated into points for final grading. Letter grades indicate the quality of work and points allotted thus:

A = 70 pts = Excellent  
B = 60 pts = Good  
C = 50 pts = Meets Requirements  
Ds and Fs will be assigned points as a percentage of requirements met.

Pluses and minuses will be given if work in one letter category stands out as somewhat better or worse than the standard for that category. Points will be adjusted accordingly.

**To make sure my standards are not a surprise** when it comes time to grade, as well as to let you improve and refine your ideas, I will require a draft of the final project to which I will give you feedback and a “projected grade.”

**Overview of Assignments:**

**Comprehension Quizzes** will be quizzes given on Thursdays at the end of class. You will be given broad questions that test your understanding of key ideas and terms from the week's material. You must attempt to answer them. You will then be given the answers to compare to your own. You will be expected to then correct your answers if needed. I will collect the quizzes to see if you have completed them, and then return them to you the following period so you may study them. These will be given 2 points each for completed quiz.

Comprehension quizzes are designed to help you learn. Research shows that by trying to answer questions, and then receiving feedback, you retain more of the information than if you studied them by reading the book or reviewing slides. There will be enough quizzes that you may earn 20 points even if you miss a couple due to illness or emergencies. However, if you miss more than a few class periods your grade will likely suffer.

**Exams** will be in-class, closed-book multiple-choice and short-answer exams. They will broadly test what it covered in the text and in class, and will rely on actual comprehension of the material. If you rely on simply recognizing the material you will not do well. I suggest you review the “Study Tips Based on Cognitive Psychology” file online.

The **Final Project** will be a project tailored to your skills and interests that helps you develop and demonstrate a mastery of a particular subject area in the psychology of language. There are several options available to you, which I must approve. You may complete:
1. A “broader themes” paper that intelligently compares something from the psychology of language with another field of study. This would be an in-depth analysis of how something covered by the class material is related to, informs, or contradicts something in education, teaching, biology, etc. This must include some insight that is more interesting than “they are the same” or “they are different.” You will also be expected to suggest how combining our understanding of the two fields may improve, change, or provide new directions for research in these fields.

2. A research proposal that identifies a hole in the current literature of the psychology of language and creates an experiment that would help fill it. This would require an introduction, review of literature, methodology, and a discussion including the significance of expected results as well as potential future work.

3. Another project of equal weight that more suits your skills and interests. This may be something I have not even yet thought of. I will only require that you convince me that it is possible for you to complete in time, and that it will be as useful to your learning as one of the previous options. Examples I can think of, but to which you are certainly not limited are:
   1. Writing a training guide for language teachers
   2. Creating a computer program that demonstrates a psycholinguistics principle
   3. Creating an imaginary people and culture in an imaginary location and creating a language for them, explaining how their phonetic, pragmatic, semantic, developmental, and other features of language would be affected by their situation and psychology

If you select option 3, I will require you to meet me in person to be sure I believe your project is reasonable.

Assignment Point Allotment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Comprehension Quizzes</td>
<td>20 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>40 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>40 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 3</td>
<td>40 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>40 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Project</td>
<td>70 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points</strong></td>
<td>200 pts</td>
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Extra Credit:

Extra credit may be obtained by critically reviewing a peer-reviewed article in the field. The content and format will be given on BlackBoard. One well-done review will earn 5 extra credit points; you may complete two reviews for a total of 10 extra credit points.

Grading Scale:
Students with Disabilities:
Iowa State University is committed to assuring that all educational activities are free from discrimination and harassment based on disability status. All students requesting accommodations are required to meet with staff in Student Disability Resources (SDR) to establish eligibility. A Student Academic Accommodation Request (SAAR) form will be provided to eligible students. The provision of reasonable accommodations in this course will be arranged after timely delivery of the SAAR form to the instructor. Students are encouraged to deliver completed SAAR forms as early in the semester as possible. SDR, a unit in the Dean of Students Office, is located in room 1076, Student Services Building or online at www.dso.iastate.edu/dr/. Contact SDR by e-mail at disabilityresources@iastate.edu or by phone at 515-294-7220 for additional information.

Academic Dishonesty:
Cheating is not tolerated. Any person observed cheating on an exam or quiz will receive a zero score and will be referred to the Dean of Students as described in the Academic Dishonesty section (pages 38-40) of the Iowa State University Catalog. http://www.dso.iastate.edu/ia/academic/misconduct.html

Electronic Device Policy:
I will expect that senior students understand the role of electronics in the classroom. Please keep all electronics on silent, and refrain from distracting others around you if you use laptops or tablets. If electronic use causes a problem, I may ask that the device be put away, and/or not brought to class again.

Student Complaint Procedures:
Complaints about the instructor or teaching assistant should ordinarily be resolved with the instructor or TA first. In special cases, students may contact the Director of Undergraduate Studies, Veronica Dark, at vjdark@iastate.edu, who will recommend further courses of action.

Dead Week:
This class follows the Iowa State University Dead Week policy as noted in section 10.6.4 of the Faculty Handbook http://www.provost.iastate.edu/resources/faculty-handbook.

Harassment and Discrimination:
Iowa State University strives to maintain our campus as a place of work and study for faculty, staff, and students that is free of all forms of prohibited discrimination and harassment based upon race, ethnicity, sex (including sexual assault), pregnancy, color, religion, national origin, physical or mental disability, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, or status as a U.S. veteran. Any student who has concerns about such behavior
should contact his/her instructor, Student Assistance at 515-294-1020 or email dso-sas@iastate.edu, or the Office of Equal Opportunity and Compliance at 515-294-7612.

**Religious Accommodation:**
If an academic or work requirement conflicts with your religious practices and/or observances, you may request reasonable accommodations. Your request must be in writing, and your instructor or supervisor will review the request. You or your instructor may also seek assistance from the Dean of Students Office or the Office of Equal Opportunity and Compliance.

Contact Information: If you are experiencing, or have experienced, a problem with any of the above issues, email academicissues@iastate.edu.

**Note:**
This syllabus and schedule are subject to change. It is expected that you come to class having read the information relevant to that class period.

Please check BlackBoard regularly for updates and announcements.