

New School for Social Research  
GPSY6107 and LPSY4556

## LANGUAGE AND THOUGHT

Fall 2007

### SYLLABUS

Professor: Jonathan Bloom  
Office: Psycholinguistics lab, 4<sup>th</sup> floor  
Office hours: Tuesdays 8-9 p.m., or by appointment  
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Class Meetings: Tuesdays 6:00-7:50 p.m., Room TBD

Teaching Assistant: Michelle Levine ([LevinM01@newschool.edu](mailto:LevinM01@newschool.edu))  
TA sessions: dates and times TBD.

Note: Any Lang College or BA/MA students registered for the class are required to attend the TA sessions for additional discussion.

#### COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- Midterm Exam (30% of final grade)
- Final Exam (40%) The exam is CUMULATIVE, but emphasizes material after the midterm.
- Online assignments (20%)
  - OPTION 1: Four postings to the Language & Thought discussion board on BlackBoard. Two original postings, and two replies. Details to follow.
  - OPTION 2: Create a Wikipedia page on a relevant topic or author. Details to follow.
- Attendance/participation (10%)

#### READINGS:

Two hardcopies of the reading packet will be on reserve at Fogelman Library. Also, the readings will be downloadable from within the course pages in the New School portal.

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MATERIAL IN THE ASSIGNED READINGS  
WHETHER OR NOT WE DISCUSS THEM IN CLASS.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE:**

While we may take more or less time to cover various topics than this schedule suggests, you may rely on the exam dates and assignment due dates.

Also note that we will discuss the readings on the week they are listed, but you do not need to have them read until the following week. So for example, we will discuss Miller on Week 1 (Sept. 4), but you should read it by the following week (Sept. 11).

**WEEK 1:** September 4th. Class Introduction / The Origins of the Field: Cognitive Psychology

Readings:

Miller (1990) "The place of language in a scientific psychology"

**WEEK 2:** September 11<sup>th</sup>. The Origins of the Field: Linguistics

Readings:

Akmajian et al. (1984) "Syntax" (from *Linguistics: An introduction to language and communication*)

Also recommended:

At least a few chapters of Lyons' (1970) book *Noam Chomsky* (on reserve at Fogelman library). Gives interesting background and clear description of Chomsky's work.

**WEEK 3:** September 18<sup>th</sup>. The Origins of Language.

Readings:

Von Frisch (1973) "Decoding the language of the bee"

Harley (2001) "The foundations of language", 47-63.

Clark & Clark (1977) "The nature of language".

**Details of online assignments available on the course website.**

**WEEK 4:** September 25th. Comprehension Processes.

Readings:

Clark & Clark (1977), "Comprehension of sentences"

Garfield (1987), "Introduction: Carving the mind at its joints"  
Swinney (1979), "Lexical access during sentence comprehension"

**WEEK 5:** October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Comprehension Processes Continued.

Readings:

Miyake et al. (1994), "Working memory constraints on the resolution of lexical ambiguity"  
Marslen-Wilson & Tyler (1987), "Against modularity"  
Tanenhaus et al. (1995), "Integration of visual and linguistic information during spoken language comprehension"  
Clark & Clark (1977), "Utilization of sentences"

**-- If you have chosen to post to the discussion board, you should have at least one posting so far.**

**-- If you are doing a Wikipedia page, the idea for the topic is due (in the form of an email to both the instructor and TS)**

**WEEK 6:** October 9<sup>th</sup>. Planning and Execution.

Readings:

Clark & Clark (1977) "Plans for what to say"  
Harley (1995) "Speech production and aphasia"

**WEEK 7:** October 16<sup>th</sup>. Execution and Errors.

**If you have chosen to post to the discussion board, you should have at least two postings so far.**

Readings:

Levitt (1989) "Self-monitoring and self-repair"  
Baars et al. (1992), "Some caveats on testing the Freudian slip hypothesis"  
Clark & Fox Tree (2002), "Using uh and um in spontaneous speaking"

**WEEK 8:** October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Semantics.

Readings:

Larson (1990), "Semantics"

Rosch (1999/1978), "Principles of categorization"

**WEEK 9:** October 30th. **MIDTERM EXAM (covering all material through and including October 23rd)**

**WEEK 10:** November 6th. Mental Representation and Categorization.

Readings:

Medin (1989), "Concepts and conceptual structure"

Harley (1995), "Semantics"

Recommended (not required):

Green et al. (1996), "Explanation and simulation in cognitive science" (Chapter 2 in *Cognitive Science: An introduction*)

Klein & Murphy (2001), "The representation of polysemous words"

Kim & Ahn (2002), "Clinical psychologists' theory-based representations of mental disorders predict their diagnostic reasoning and memory"

**WEEK 11:** November 13<sup>th</sup>. Metaphor.

**--If you have chosen to post to the discussion board, you should have at least three postings so far.**

**-- If you are doing a Wikipedia page, a rough draft is due, emailed to the instructor and TA**

Readings:

Lakoff & Johnson (1980). "Metaphorical systematicity: Highlighting and hiding"

Cacciari & Glucksberg (1994). "Understanding figurative language"

**NOVEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>: NO CLASS (Classes follow Thursday schedule)**

**WEEK 12:** November 27th. Meaning In Discourse.

**--If you have chosen to post to the discussion board, you should have all four postings completed.**

Readings:

Clark & Wilkes-Gibbs (1986), "Referring as a collaborative process"

Schober & Clark (1989), "Understanding by addressees and overhearers"

Metzing & Brennan (2003), "When conceptual pacts are broken: Partner-specific effects on the comprehension of referring expressions"

**WEEK 13:** December 4th. Non-Linguistic(?) Thought.

Vendler (1977), "Wordless thoughts"

Kosslyn & Pomerantz (1977), "Imagery, propositions, and the form of internal representations"

Pylyshyn (2003), "Return of the mental image: Are there really pictures in the brain?"

**-- If you are doing a Wikipedia page, it should be posted on Wikipedia and emailed to the instructor and TA.**

**WEEK 14:** December 11th. Whorf and Linguistic Relativity.

Readings:

Whorf (1956), "Languages and logic"

Haugen (1977), "Linguistic relativity: Myths and methods"

Pullum (1991), "The great Eskimo vocabulary hoax"

**FINAL EXAM** – December 18<sup>th</sup>, 6 p.m.

## References

Miller, G.A. (1990). The place of language in a scientific psychology. *Psychological Science*, 1(1), pp. 7-14.

Von Frisch, K. (1973). Decoding the language of the bee. Retrieved August 28, 2006 from the Nobel Prize website:  
[http://nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/medicine/laureates/1973/frisch-lecture.pdf](http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/medicine/laureates/1973/frisch-lecture.pdf)

Harley, T. (2001). The foundations of language. Chapter 3 of *The Psychology of Language*, Hove and New York: Psychology Press, Ltd., pp. 47-63

Clark, H.H. & Clark, E.V. (1977). The nature of language. Chapter 1 of *Psychology and Language: An introduction to psycholinguistics*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc., pp. 3-40.

Akmajian, A., Demers, R.A., Farmer, A.K., & Harnish, R.M. (1990). Syntax: The study of sentence structure. Chapter 5 of *Linguistics: An introduction to language and communication*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Clark, H.H. & Clark, E.V. (1977). Comprehension of sentences. Chapter 2 of *Psychology and language: An introduction to psycholinguistics*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc., pp. 43-85.

Garfield, J.L. (1987). Introduction: Carving the mind at its joints. In J.L. Garfield (ed.), *Modularity in knowledge representation and natural-language understanding*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, pp. 1-23.

Swinney, D.A. (1979). Lexical access during sentence comprehension: (Re)consideration of context effects. *Journal of Verbal Learning and Verbal Behavior*, 18, pp. 645-659.

Miyake, A., Just, M.A., & Carpenter, P.A. (1994). Working memory constraints on the resolution of lexical ambiguity: Maintaining multiple interpretations in neutral contexts. *Journal of Memory and Language* 33, pp. 175-202.

Marslen-Wilson, W. & Tyler, L.K. (1987). Against modularity. In J.L. Garfield (ed.), *Modularity in knowledge representation and natural-language understanding*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, pp. 37-62.

Tanenhaus, M., Spivey-Knowlton, M., Eberhard, K., & Sedivy, J. (1995). Integration of visual and linguistic information during spoken language comprehension. *Science*, 268, 1632-1634.

Clark, H.H. & Clark, E.V. (1977). Utilization of sentences. Chapter 3 of *Psychology and Language: An introduction to psycholinguistics*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc., pp. 87-132.

Clark, H.H. & Clark, E.V. (1977). Plans for what to say. Chapter 6 of *Psychology and Language: An introduction to psycholinguistics*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc., pp. 223-258.

Harley, T.A. (1995). Speech production and aphasia. Chapter 8 of *The psychology of language: From data to theory*. East Sussex, UK: Psychology Press, pp. 243-277.

Levelt, W.J.M. (1989). Self-monitoring and self-repair. Chapter 12 of *Speaking: From intention to articulation*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, pp. 458-499.

Baars, B.J., Cohen, J., Bower, G.H., & Berry, J.W. (1992). Some caveats on testing the Freudian slip hypothesis: Problems in systematic replication. In B.J. Baars (ed.), *Experimental slips and human error: Exploring the architecture of volition*. New York: Plenum Press, pp. 289-313.

Clark, H. H., & Fox Tree, J. E. (2002). Using uh and um in spontaneous speaking. *Cognition*, 84, 73-111.

Larson, R.K. (1990). Semantics. In D.N. Osherson & H. Lasnik (eds.), *An invitation to cognitive science: Language*, pp. 23-42.

Rosch, E. (1999). Principles of categorization. In E. Margolis & S. Laurence (Eds.), *Concepts: Core readings* (pp. 189-206). Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. Reprinted from (1978), E. Rosch & B. Lloyds (Eds.), *Cognition and categorization*. Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

Medin, D.L. (1989). Concepts and conceptual structure. *American Psychologist* 44(12), pp. 1469-1481.

Harley, T.A. (1995). Semantics. Chapter 6 of *The psychology of language: From data to theory*. East Sussex, UK: Psychology Press, pp. 175-205.

Klein, D.E., & Murphy, G.L. (2001). The representation of polysemous words. *Journal of Memory and Language*, 45, 259-282.

Kim, N.S., & Ahn, W.-K. (2002). Clinical psychologists' theory-based representations of mental disorders predict their diagnostic reasoning and memory. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 131, 451-476.

Lakoff, G. & Johnson, M. (1980) Metaphorical systematicity: Highlighting and hiding.

Chapter 3 of *Metaphors We Live By*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Cacciari, C., & Glucksberg, S. (1994). Understanding figurative language. In M.A. Gernsbacher (Ed.), *Handbook of Psycholinguistics*. San Diego, CA: Academic Press. pp. 447-477

Clark, H.H. & Wilkes-Gibbs, D. (1986). Referring as a collaborative process. *Cognition*, 22, pp. 1-39.

Schober, M.F. & Clark, H.H. (1989). Understanding by addressees and overhearers. *Cognitive Psychology*, 21, pp. 211-232.

Metzing, C., & Brennan, S.E. (2003). When conceptual pacts are broken: Partner-specific effects on the comprehension of referring expressions. *Journal of Memory and Language*, 49, 201-213.

Vendler, Z. (1977). Wordless thoughts. In W.C. McCormack & S.A. Wurm (eds.), *Language and thought: Anthropological issues*. The Hague: Mouton Publishers, pp. 29-44.

Kosslyn, S.M. & Pomerantz, J.R. (1977). Imagery, propositions, and the form of internal representations. *Cognitive Psychology*, 9, pp. 52-76.

Pylyshyn, Z. (2003). Return of the mental image: Are there really pictures in the brain? *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*, 7(3), 113-118.

Whorf, B.L. (1941). Languages and logic. *Technology Review (M.I.T.)*, 43, pp. 250-252, 266, 268, 272. Reprinted in J.B. Carroll (ed.), *Language, thought, and reality: Selected writings of Benjamin Lee Whorf*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press (1956), pp. 233-245.

Haugen, E. (1977). Linguistic relativity: Myths and methods. In W.C. McCormack & S.A. Wurm (eds.), *Language and thought: Anthropological issues*. The Hague: Mouton Publishers, pp. 11-28.

Pullum, G.K. (1991). The great Eskimo vocabulary hoax. Chapter 19 in *The great Eskimo vocabulary hoax, and other irreverent essays on the study of language*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Bickmore, T., Cassell, J. (2005) Social dialogue with embodied conversational agents. In J. van Kuppevelt, L. Dybkjaer, & N. Bernsen (eds.), *Advances in Natural, Multimodal Dialogue Systems*. New York: Kluwer Academic.

Searle, J. (1990). Is the brain's mind a computer program? *Scientific American*. 262: pp.



26-31.

## Other Recommended Readings

Clark, H.H. (1996). Communities, commonalities, and communication. In J.J. Gumperz & S.C. Levinson (Eds.), *Rethinking linguistic relativity* (pp. 324-355). NY: Cambridge University Press.

Hofstadter, D. (1985). Changes in default words and images, engendered by rising consciousness; A person paper on purity in language. Chapters 7 and 8 in *Metamagical themas: Questing for the essence of mind and pattern*. New York: Basic Books, Inc., pp. 136-167.

Vigliocco, G., Vinson, D.P., Paganelli, F., & Dworzynski, K. (2005). Grammatical gender effects on cognition: Implications for language learning and language. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 134(4), 501-520.

Grosjean, F. (1982). The bilingual person. Chapter 5 in *Life with two languages: An introduction to bilingualism*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Spivey, M.J., & Marian, V. (1999). Cross talk between native and second languages: Partial activation of an irrelevant lexicon. *Psychological Science*, 10, 281-284.

Colomé, A. (2001). Lexical activation in bilinguals' speech production: Language-specific or language-independent? *Journal of Memory & Language*, 45, 721-736.

Sera, M.D., Elieff, C., Forbes, J., Clark Burch, M., Rodriguez, W., & Poulin Dobois, D. (2002). When language affects cognition and when it does not: An analysis of grammatical gender and classification. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 131, 377-397.

Evans, J.St.B.T., Newstead, S.E., & Byrne, R.M. (1993). Introduction. In J.St.B.T. Evans, S.E. Newstead, & R.M. Byrne (Eds.), *Human reasoning: The psychology of deduction*. Hillsdale: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, pp. 1-28.

Clark, H.H., & Schober, M.F. (1992). Asking questions and influencing answers. In J.M. Tanur (Ed.), *Questions about questions: Inquiries into the cognitive bases of surveys*, New York: Russell Sage.

Tanenhaus, M.K. (1988). Psycholinguistics: An overview. In F.J. Newmeyer (Ed.), *Language: Psychological and biological aspects. Linguistics: The Cambridge survey, Vol. 3*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-37.

Clark, H.H. (1997). Dogmas of understanding. *Discourse Processes* 23(3), pp. 567-598.