

## Psychology of Language Psyc-135-001

### Syllabus

**Instructor:** Dr. Delphine Dahan  
3401 Walnut street, suite 400A (entrance near Starbucks)  
room 412  
215 898 0326  
[dahan@psych.upenn.edu](mailto:dahan@psych.upenn.edu)

Office hours: Lunch at Moravian cafés (3401 Walnut), Thursdays at 12 noon.  
Email sent to me should only be related to the content of the lectures. Any other questions or requests should be addressed to Jared.

**Teaching Assistant:** Jared Novick  
[jnovick@psych.upenn.edu](mailto:jnovick@psych.upenn.edu)  
Weekly recitation session, tba

**Class meets MWF, from 9 to 9:50am in Stiteler Hall Room B21**

**Textbook:** Altmann, G. T. M. (1999). *The Ascent of Babel*. Oxford University Press.  
Available at the Penn Book Center.

**Assignments:** For most of the lectures, a chapter from the textbook or a reading (available electronically on Blackboard) is assigned. You are expected to have read the assignment before coming to class.

**Blackboard:** There is a Blackboard site for this class. *It is expected that each student check the site on a regular basis to download assigned readings and check out any announcements.*

Some lecture slides will be available on Blackboard. These slides are restricted to diagrams, figures, or other complex slides presented in class. Typically, the slides will be available on Blackboard shortly before class meets.

**Exams:** There will be three non-cumulative exams, two mid-term and one final. The format of all exams will be short essay questions. In addition to demonstrate understanding of basic concepts and facts covered in class or in readings, you will be required to show that you've thought deeply about the questions central to the field of psycholinguistics.

If you anticipate not being able to attend any one of the exams, email Jared within the first two weeks of class (i.e., up to January 23 2004). Make-up exams will be scheduled ONLY if you have informed Jared within the first two weeks of class (with the exception of authorized university absence). These exams will be scheduled no more than a week after the scheduled exam.

If you have a question or a concern that there was an error in your exam's grading, you must submit your request in writing to Jared, no later than a week after the work was returned in class. No requests will be considered beyond this date. If you submit a request, your work will be entirely re-graded, and the grade might be higher or lower than the original grade.

### Schedule at a glance

Date	Content	Assignment
M Jan 12	Introduction-overview	
W Jan 14	Linguistic principles I	Altmann, preface-chapter 1
F Jan 16	Linguistic principles II	
M Jan 19	Martin Luther King Jr. Day, No Class	
W Jan 21	Language in relation to other cognitive processes I	
F Jan 23	Language in relation to other cognitive processes II	
M Jan 26	Speech perception. Phonetics	Altmann, chapters 2 & 3
W Jan 28	Speech perception. Categorical perception	Liberman et al. (1957)
F Jan 30	Speech perception. Structure in phonemic categories	Miller (1994)
M Feb 2	Spoken-word recognition.	Altmann, chapters 5 & 6
W Feb 4	Spoken word recognition	Luce, Pisoni, & Goldinger (1990)
F Feb 6	Models of Spoken-word recognition I	Frauenfelder & Peeters (1990)
M Feb 9	Models of Spoken-word recognition II	
W Feb 11	Visual word recognition I	Altmann, chapter 11
F Feb 13	Visual word recognition II	Massaro (1998)
M Feb 16	Lexicon. Word meaning	Murphy (1991)
W Feb 18	Lexicon. Word meaning, concepts	
F Feb 20	Lexicon. Semantic networks	
M Feb 23	First Mid Term Exam	
W Feb 25	Sentence processing I	Altmann, chapters 7 & 8
F Feb 27	Sentence processing II	Altmann (1998)
M March 1	Sentence processing III	MacDonald et al. (1994)
W March 3	Sentence processing & Working Memory I	Gordon et al. (2002)
F March 5	Sentence processing & Working memory II	
M March 8	Spring Break	
W March 10	Spring Break	
F March 12	Spring Break	
M March 15	Sentences in discourse context I	Marslen-Wilson et al. (1993)
W March 17	Sentences in discourse context II	Altmann, chapter 9
F March 19	Sentences in discourse context III	
M March 22	Discourse and conversation	Clark & Krych (2004)

W March 24	Second Mid Term Exam	
F March 26	Language production I	Altmann, chapter 10
M March 29	Language production II	Dell (1995)
W March 31	Language acquisition I	Altmann, chapter 3
F April 2	Language acquisition II	Altmann, chapter 4
M April 5	Language acquisition III	Bloom (2001) Bloom & Markson (1998)
W April 7	Language acquisition IV	Fisher (2002)
F April 9	Second language acquisition I	
M April 12	Second language acquisition II	
W April 14	Language and the brain I	Altmann, chapters 12 & 13
F April 16	Language & the brain II	Price (1998)
M April 19	Language vs. non-human communication	Hauser (2000)
W April 21	Theories of language-thought relationships	Pullum (1991)
F April 23	Last class	Altmann, chapter 14
M May 3	Final exam 8:30-10:30	