

Language  
PSY 314 – Spring 2021

Time: 14:40-16:30 on Wednesday + Offline lecture  
Zoom link: <https://sabanciuniv.zoom.us/j/98708731018?pwd=TnViU1ZDSkxNRzMwbWlWb2NSbGRydz09>  
Meeting ID: 987 0873 1018 Passcode: 3142021

Instructor: Junko Kanero ([jkanero@sabanciuniv.edu](mailto:jkanero@sabanciuniv.edu))  
Office hours: by appointment

Teaching Assistant: Elif Tutku Tunalı ([elif.tunali@sabanciuniv.edu](mailto:elif.tunali@sabanciuniv.edu))

### Course Overview

This course provides an overview of research on the psychology of language. Students will be exposed to a wide range of topics including language acquisition in infancy and childhood, second language learning, the neural processing of language, and language education. The course equips students with theoretical and methodological understanding of research on language and mind.

### Readings

- One or two articles or book chapters will be assigned each week. All readings will be available on SUCourse one week before the corresponding lecture. Students are expected to read the assigned text material before each lecture.

### Grading

The course grades will be determined by allocating 30% to the midterm exam, 40% to the semi-cumulative final exam, and 25% to presentation (20% for presenting and 5% for evaluating other presentations), and 5% to reading questions. At the end of the semester, the letter grades will be assigned by using the following table.

A	90.00 – 100.00	C+	65.00 – 69.99
A-	85.00 – 89.99	C	60.00 – 64.99
B+	80.00 – 84.99	C-	55.00 – 59.99
B	75.00 – 79.99	D+	50.00 – 54.99
B-	70.00 – 74.99	D	45.00 – 49.99
		F	below 45.00

*Exams.* We will have two exams – Midterm Exam during class and a semi-cumulative final exam during the finals week. Students will be tested on the material from lectures and assigned readings. There will be multiple-choice and short answer questions. The final exam will be semi-cumulative. On the final exam, questions come from the entire semester but will only be about limited topics that are specified by the instructor.

You may take a make-up for a missed exam with an official medical excuse. To take a make-up, you must contact the instructor and TA **WITHIN THREE DAYS** (e.g., if you miss an exam on Wednesday, you must contact us by the following Saturday).

*Presentation.* Students will do a 15-minute group presentation on one of the topics covered in the course. Groups will be determined after the add-drop period, based on the class size and

availability. Each group will be meeting the instructor using Zoom during the normal class hours to give the presentation. The presentation will be recorded for other students to watch and evaluate. Presenters must be in class during the time of their presentation with their face camera on. Due to connection issues etc., if any presentation group prefers to record the presentation beforehand and play the video during class (but answer questions live after playing the video), they may consult the instructor and TA at least one week in advance. Note that, if this pre-recording option is taken, the presentation is expected to be smoother than live presentation, and the time will be strictly limited to 15 minutes.

Students will also evaluate presentations by other students. The evaluation will be graded in terms of whether the student demonstrates the full understanding of the presentation content. The evaluation form will be filled out and submitted online.

*Reading questions.* When readings are assigned, you will be submitting at least one question per paper. The question will be graded on whether it is a thoughtful question demonstrating that the student read and understood the reading. To receive full credit, you must provide a brief background or context for your question and demonstrate you have read and understood the reading. Students are expected to go beyond factual questions such as “What does the word X mean?” and submit questions that can facilitate discussion. Your questions can address theoretical ideas, methodology, or implication of the research.

Your questions will be graded as:

- 0 = no question
- 1 = factual question or question without context
- 2 = thoughtful question demonstrating that the student read and understood the reading

When you expect to miss a class due to circumstances beyond your control (e.g., major medical problem, family emergency), you may contact the instructor and TA to discuss the possibility of having their absence excused (i.e., Not counted towards the overall grade). Each case will be evaluated individually, and there is no guarantee and thus students are advised try not to miss any class. Students are also responsible for making arrangements to learn the missed materials.

*Extra credit.* As mentioned on the last page of this syllabus, students can participate in research studies to gain up to 3 bonus points. Students may also receive extra points at the end of the semester for *regularly participating* in class activities and discussion.

### Communication

For any questions or requests, please email both the instructor and TA in one email. The subject of your email should include the course code (PSY 314) and clearly indicate the content of your email (e.g., “Question about PSY 314 Midterm”). The main body of your email should include the names of the recipient (e.g., “Hello, Dr. Kanero and Tutku”) at the beginning and your full name at the end. The content of your email should be as succinct as possible. You can call the instructor “Hocam”, “Dr. Kanero”, “Professor Kanero” or even just “Junko,” but please refrain from using Mr., Mrs., Miss, or Ms. because these titles are considered very inappropriate in academic settings, and you should never use them when you are talking to professors in English!

### Tentative Course Schedule

<i>Week</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Lecture Topic and Test</i>
1	February 24	Introduction
2	March 3	The Origins of Language
3	March 10	Language of Humans, Animals, and AI
4	March 17	Sounds of Language + Review
5	March 24	Semantics
6	March 31	Syntax + Pragmatics
7	April 7	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>
8	April 14	Language and the Brain
9	April 21	First Language Acquisition + Review
10	April 28	Speech-Language Pathology <b>Guest Lecture by Dr. Amy Pace (University of Washington) at 18:30-19:30</b>
11	May 5	Gestures and Sign Language <b>CLASS PRESENTATION 1 at 14:40-16:30</b>
12	May 12	<b>NO CLASS</b>
13	May 19	<b>NO CLASS</b>
14	May 26	<b>CLASS PRESENTATION 2 at 14:40-16:30</b> <b>Guest Lecture on Language and Thought by Elif Tutku Tunalı at 18:30-19:30</b> (No Monday offline lecture this week)
15	June 7	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>

### Extra Credit - Research Participation (up to 3 bonus points)

Students can optionally serve as participants in research conducted by Sabancı University researchers to earn bonus points. You will be able to sign up for experiments and earn your Research Participation Points through the online Sona system at <http://sabanciuniv.sona-systems.com>. The detail of the system can be found in *Research Points - GuideForStudents Spring 2021 (remote teaching).pdf* on SUCourse.

For this course, you will be able to earn up to 6 Research Participation Points (1 point equals ~ 30 minutes of research participation). These 6 points will be converted to 3 bonus points added to your overall total at the end of the semester. In other words, you receive .5 bonus points for 1 Research Participation Point.

Research points can be still earned if online studies are available. There may be less or no research participation opportunities, but we do not plan to add other extra credit opportunities.

### Academic Integrity

Students are expected to obey the Sabancı University Code of Academic Integrity.

<http://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/academic-integrity-statement>

Scholastic dishonesty of any sort will not be tolerated. Cheating in any form is serious offenses and is considered to be in violation of the College's Academic Integrity Code. Cases of academic dishonesty will be reported and the student will be disciplined accordingly.