

PSY314 Language  
Spring 2022

Time and Location: 10:40-12:30 on Wednesday at FASS 1011  
15:40-16:30 on Friday at FASS 1008-1010

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Office hours: by appointment

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Course Overview

Humans use language to think, remember, and communicate. This course provides an overview of research on the psychology of language. Students will be exposed to a wide range of topics related to language including but not limited to the evolution of language, communications of non-human animals, language acquisition in infancy and childhood, second language learning, the neural processing of language, and language education. The course equips students with a theoretical and methodological understanding of research on language and the mind.

The course will be offered fully physical this semester. No class recording will be provided.

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 25% to the midterm exam, 40% to the semi-cumulative final exam, and 25% to the presentation (20% for presenting and 5% for evaluating other presentations), 5% to reading questions, and 5% to attendance and participation.

At the end of the semester, the letter grades will be assigned by using the following table.

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F
90.00+	85.00+	80.00+	75.00+	70.00+	65.00+	60.00+	55.00+	50.00+	45.00+	below 45

**Exams.** We will have a midterm exam and a semi-cumulative final exam. 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. The final exam covers the first half of the course (i.e., before the midterm exam), but some topics may be omitted (the instructor will be announcing these topics).

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 presenting in person during the normal class hours.

**Presentation evaluation.** 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 implications 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

**Attendance and Participation.** In each class, students receive different points depending on their attendance participation (0 = absent; 0.5 = present but not participating; 1 = present and participating). Students will also receive extra points at the end of the semester for *regularly participating* in-class activities and discussions.

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. Thus, students are advised to 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 discussions.

### Communication

For any questions or requests, **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”) 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 “Dr. Kanero”, “Professor Kanero”, “Junko Hocam”, 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

The dates of the exams are tentative, but no meeting will ever be scheduled outside of our regular class hours.

<i>Week</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Lecture Topic and Test</i>
1	March 2 and 4	Introduction
2	March 9 and 11	The Origins of Language
3	March 16 and 18	Language of Humans, Animals, and Machines
4	March 23 and 25	Sounds of Language
5	Mach 30 and April 1	Semantics
6	April 6	Syntax + Pragmatics
	April 8	<b>Guest Lecture:</b> Aslıhan Niksarlı: Gestures as a Language: An Evolutionary Perspective (Part 1)
7	April 13	Language and the Brain
	April 15	<b>Guest Lecture:</b> Aslıhan Niksarlı: Gestures as a Language: An Evolutionary Perspective (Part 2)
8	April 20	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>
	April 22	Learning Language
9	April 27 and 29	Learning Language <b>Presentations 1</b>
	May 4	<b>NO CLASS (Ramazan Bayramı)</b>
	May 6	<b>NO CLASS (Spring Break)</b>
10	May 11 and 13	Language and Communication Disorders <b>Presentations 2</b>
11	May 18	Language Education <b>Presentations 3</b>
	May 20	<b>NO CLASS (Holiday)</b>
12	May 25 and 27	Gestures and Sign Language <b>Presentations 4</b>
13	June 1 and 3	Language and Thought <b>Presentations 5</b>
14	June 8 and 10	Language in Society + Review
	<b>TBA</b>	<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 2022.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 0.5 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 a serious offense 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.