

## Language and the Brain CogSci 210: Winter 2009

TTh 9:30-10:50am Swift 107

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Office Hours: TTh 11am-12pm and by appointment.	M 10-12 and by appointment.
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Section:	12pm	2pm	4pm	5pm
Time on	Frances Searle	Frances Searle	Swift Hall	Annenberg
Monday, location	3-220	2-407	107	G30
Teaching assistant:	Chivon Powers	Anja Jamrozik	Donna Bridge	Midam Kim
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Office:	Cresap 104	Annenberg 155	Cresap 319	Swift 310

Webpage: Blackboard—<http://courses.northwestern.edu>

Lecture slides will be posted after, but not before, class.

### What's this course all about?

Cognitive science attempts to integrate multiple perspectives and methodologies to understand the mind and the brain. This course focuses on this integration in the domain of language. We examine questions like: What are the mental processes that underlie language? What brain structures are associated with language? How do these brain structures process language? How do the properties of neural structures influence language processing?

### Grading

	<u>% of Final Grade</u>
In-Class Exams	
Exam I (2/3)	40%
Exam II (3/5)	45%
Homework (5 highest scores)	15%
Extra-credit assessments	(up to 2% extra)

Exams: There will two in-class exams; no exam will be held during finals week. Makeups of exams will not be allowed without an authorized medical excuse.

Homework: These will be assigned on Thursday and due the following Thursday. Homeworks must be handed in in person at the beginning of class; email submission and late homeworks will not be accepted. Only your 5 highest scores from these will be counted.

Assessments: Monday in section you will do a brief assessment. These are designed to assess your understanding of the reading and to simulate exam questions. They will focus on the prior week's lectures and the current week's readings. Assessments will be given at the start of section; there will be no makeups for missed assessments. Your 4 highest assessment scores will be counted as extra credit equivalent to up to 2% of your grade.

## Provisional Course Outline (Updated 1/6/09)

Readings are available in PDF format on Blackboard.

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Notes</u>
0	Introduction to cognitive neuroscience	1/6		No sections
		1/8	Posner & Raichle Chapter 3	
1	Introduction to theories of language	1/13	Pinker Chapter 1,2	
		1/15	Pinker Chapter 4	HW1 due
2	Perception and acquisition of words and sounds	1/20	Altmann 1997 Chapter 2	No sections(MLK)
		1/22	Cheour et al. 1998	HW2 due
3	Normal and disordered production of words and sounds	1/27	Dell 1995	
		1/29	Dronkers 1996	HW3 due
4	EXAM I: IN CLASS	2/3		
	Connectionist approaches to language	2/5	Goldrick 2007	(No homework)
5		2/10	Altmann Chapter 13	
	Consensus overview of language & LH advantage	2/12	Banich Chapter	HW4 due
6	Prosody	2/17	Ross Chapter	
	Sentence processing	2/19	Optional: Schoenemann AnnRevAnth	HW5 due
7	Figurative language	2/24	Coulson & Wu JoCN	
	Natural language & RH processing	2/26	Jung-Beeman TiCS	HW6 due
8	Discourse/interaction	3/3	Clark & Bangerter Chapter	
	EXAM II: IN CLASS	3/5		