

Linguistics 321: Bilingualism Winter 2009

Class time and place: Tuesday and Thursday, 2:00- 3:20 pm, Technological Institute L150

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Office hours:	Tuesdays 9:00-10:30 a.m. Wednesdays 10:15 – 11:45 a.m. and by appointment	Tuesdays + Thursdays 11am-12pm and by appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

We will examine the cognitive and linguistic aspects of bilingualism. We will address questions such as:

- How are two or more languages acquired, represented and processed in the mind/brain of an individual?
- What brain mechanisms are involved in bilingual language processing?
- How do bilinguals control two languages (i.e. activate the one while simultaneously suppressing the other) during online language production?
- Why is direct translation from one language to another challenging to humans and computers?

PREREQUISITES: At least one 200-level course in Linguistics or permission of the instructors.

Note: This course satisfies the WCAS Social & Behavioral Sciences Distro Area.

COURSE GOALS

Over the quarter, you will become familiar with the nature of language processing in bilinguals. We will explore this within 4 specific areas: acquisition, biological bases, language control and translation. These areas will familiarize you with a variety of theoretical/methodological perspectives on bilingual processing: psycholinguistic models of adult processing, models of acquisition, biologically-inspired models, and computational modeling. How do such models explain language processing? Within these frameworks, how can we empirically investigate bilingual language processing?

COURSE STRUCTURE

We will work towards these goals by:

- Lectures and readings from primary sources.
- A set of 4 projects (one for each content area). These will involve the collection and analysis of data from experimental and web-based sources, synthesis of information from the primary literature, and the use and analysis of computational language tools. You will communicate your findings from these projects through papers and presentations.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Participation	20%
Four Projects	20% each

Course Policies

1. Keep up with the class. The syllabus—topics, assignments, readings, etc.—may change. These changes will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard. It is your responsibility to keep up with these changes.
2. You have to do your work on time. Due dates are firm; attendance in class is not optional. If this is a problem, see #3. The highest possible letter grade for work handed in during the first 24 hours after class will be a C. We will give comments and suggestions on work turned in later than this, but you will receive no credit for the assignment.
3. If you have a problem, give us sufficient time to help you! If you've tried to do an assignment, but can't seem to complete it, come to us well before it's due. If you are unable to come to a class, try to let us know beforehand, or as soon as possible after class. Your reasons for class absences need to be verifiable.
4. You may work together on assignments, but the finished product must be your own (unless otherwise noted).

Tentative Course Schedule

Updates, readings and assignments will be posted on Blackboard

Week	Day	Date	Topic	Reading	Handout	Work due
1	1	Jan 6	Introduction: Definitions			
	2	Jan 8	Acquisition/ cognitive representation of multiple languages		Assignment 1	
2	3	Jan 13				
	4	Jan 15				
3	5	Jan20				
	6	Jan 22	Cognitive neuroscience of bilingual speech perception		Assignment 2	Assignment 1
4	7	Jan 27				
	8	Jan 29				
5	9	Feb 3				
	10	Feb 5		Presentations		
6	11	Feb 10	Control of two languages /code switching		Assignment 3	Assignment 2
	12	Feb 12				
7	13	Feb 17				
	14	Feb 19				
8	15	Feb 24	Translation (human and machine)		Assignment 4	Assignment 3
	16	Feb 26				
9	17	Mar 3				
	18	Mar 5				
10		Mar 9-13	Reading Week			Assignment 4
11		Mar 16-20	Exam Week			