

PENNSTATE



LING/SPAN 496: Research Assistantship Language Acquisition Lab

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Course Objectives: This course will give students experience in the scientific research process, with particular attention to research in linguistics and first language acquisition. Students will work on projects designed by the instructor. This course will provide a hands-on learning opportunity to apply students' knowledge of psycholinguistics, which will be useful in future coursework, graduate school and/or future employment.

Requirements: We will meet 1-2 hours each week. During the first week of classes we will meet to compare schedules and select a regular meeting time. This time will be used to discuss research progress, hand out assignments, and conduct training on research tasks. You are expected to attend each meeting; please let me know if you need to be absent (e.g. illness, etc.)

Readings: Readings will provide a background overview of the research area. You will read, on average, one article per week and will come to the lab meetings prepared to discuss the article. You are required to email your instructor **three questions** about the article at least 4 hours before the meeting.

Ethics Training: The PSU Institutional Review Board requires that all persons involved in the implementation of research projects involving human subjects complete the ethics training (<https://www.citiprogram.org>). You must take the on-line training and provide me with a copy of the certificate of completion. If you have already completed the training for another class, you can simply provide me with a copy of the certificate of completion. The training must be completed by **October 31st**.

Research Assignments/Responsibilities: You will be asked to complete a variety of tasks related to research in first language acquisition, including (but not limited to) literature reviews, library investigations, experimental stimuli development, recruitment of research participants, data collection with children and adults, management of research studies, data coding and entry, and some statistical analysis. I will provide appropriate training before each one of these tasks. If at any time you feel you are being asked to complete a task for which you are not prepared, you should let me know immediately. This is supposed to be an educational experience for you and it is my job to provide you with the training necessary to complete your research assignments. You should expect to devote an average of **9 hours per week** toward these responsibilities (including readings), either during scheduled lab hours or on your own time.

Final Poster: The research assistantship will culminate with a research poster. The poster will include (1) a background review of the literature we've read over the course of the semester and (2) and a method/results/discussion section focusing on one of the experiments or data analysis

you did during the semester. The final poster is due during exam week. Students will be encouraged to present their poster at the PSU undergraduate forum in April.

Tentative Research Schedule

Weeks 1-5: Background reading & training, participant recruitment, and stimuli creation

Weeks 6-13: Data collection and/or coding

Weeks 14 & 15: Data analysis and writing up results in final poster

Method of Evaluation

Your final grade will be determined based on your performance on the combination of course requirements described earlier in this syllabus.

Reading Questions	20%
Research Assignments	40%
Final Poster	40%

Academic Integrity:

“Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest and responsible manner. Academic integrity is a basic guiding principle for all academic activity at The Pennsylvania State University, and all members of the University community are expected to act in accordance with this principle. Consistent with this expectation, the University's Code of Conduct states that all students should act with personal integrity, respect other students' dignity, rights and property, and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their efforts. Academic integrity includes a commitment not to engage in or tolerate acts of falsification, misrepresentation or deception. Such acts of dishonesty violate the fundamental ethical principles of the University community and compromise the worth of work completed by others.” (University Faculty Senate Policy 49-20) If you are not sure what constitutes academic dishonesty, ASK!! It is your responsibility to be familiar with the University's academic integrity policy and procedures, found in www.psu.edu/dept/ufs/policies/47-00.html#49-20, and in <http://www.psu.edu/dept/oue/aappm/G-9.html>. Also read about the Academic Integrity Procedure, linked within the Senate Policy document.

Note to students with disabilities: Penn State welcomes students with disabilities into the University's educational programs. If you have a disability-related need for reasonable academic adjustments in this course, contact the Office for Disability Services. For further information regarding policies, rights, and responsibilities, please visit the ODS website site at <http://www.equity.psu.edu/ods>. Instructors should be notified as early in the semester as possible regarding the need for reasonable accommodations.

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policy to the Affirmative Action Director, The Pennsylvania State University, 328 Boucke Building, University Park, PA 16802-5901; Tel 814-865-4700/V, 815-863-1150/TTY.