



**The University of Jordan**

**Accreditation & Quality Assurance Center**

**COURSE Syllabus**

1	Course title	Psycholinguistics
2	Course number	2201423
3	Credit hours (theory, practical)	Three hours (theory)
	Contact hours (theory, practical)	Three hours (theory)
4	Prerequisites/corequisites	English Linguistics
5	Program title	English Language and Literature
6	Program code	2201
7	Awarding institution	The University of Jordan
8	Faculty	Faculty of Foreign Languages
9	Department	The Department of English Language and Literature
10	Level of course	Third Year
11	Year of study and semester (s)	Starting Third Year – Second Semester
12	Final Qualification	Bachelor's Degree in English Language and Literature
13	Other department (s) involved in teaching the course	-----
14	Language of Instruction	English
15	Date of production/revision	October 2015

#### 16. Course Coordinator:

*Office numbers, office hours, phone numbers, and email addresses should be listed.*

#### 17. Other instructors:

*Office numbers, office hours, phone numbers, and email addresses should be listed.*

#### 18. Course Description:

This course is a general introduction to psycholinguistics. It aims to present an interdisciplinary approach to the study of language as a main communication tool. It covers areas such as speech perception, word recognition, sentence production, language acquisition and comprehension. The course looks into how language behavior is linked to our cognitive understanding and the role of the mind and the brain from a neurolinguistic point of view. Students will learn about the nature of the language, the psychological aspects of language use, how the language skills are developed, as well as human information processing.

**19. Course aims and outcomes:****A. Aims:**

This course is a general introduction to psycholinguistics. It aims to present an interdisciplinary approach to the study of language as a main communication tool.

**B- Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs):** Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to ...

1. Identify the basic areas of the brain involved in language and describe the functions carried out by these areas.
2. List the major issues in the areas of speech perception, word recognition, sentence processing, text processing, reading and language acquisition.
3. List the major processes involved in speech perception, word recognition, sentence processing, text interpretation, reading and language acquisition.
4. Illustrate how each of the processes in (3) works for each of these domains.
5. Show how each of the processes in (3) works with new data.
6. Describe the methods used to experimentally test hypotheses in psycholinguistics.
7. Describe and demonstrate theoretical models of: speech perception, word recognition and lexical organization, sentence processing, language acquisition and reading.
8. Analyze new data with each of these models in (6).
9. Develop a proposal for researching a specific question, based on knowledge of general issues and psycholinguistic methodology.

**20. Topic Outline and Schedule:**

Topic	Week	Instructor	Achieved ILOs	Evaluation Methods	Reference
General information about the course. Introduction to the key concepts of psycholinguistics. Language and communication: is language specific to humans?	1&2	-	B1	a. lectures: 3 hours per week b. students are required to prepare in advance of the lectures	<i>Psycholinguistics</i>
Animal communication and human communication	3	-	B1 & 2	=	=
The cognitive basis of language: how children learn language	4	-	B1-B5	=	<i>The Psychology of Language: From Data to Theory</i>
Early semantic and syntactic development	5	-	B3 & B5	=	=
The biological basis of language: language and the brain	6	-	B7	=	<i>Psycholinguistics</i>
Language disorders: aphasias and dyslexias	7	-	B5,6,7,8	=	=
The structure of sentences. Word meaning. Comprehension	8	-	B5,6,7	=	=

The structure and content of the 'mental lexicon	9&10	-	B8,9	=	=
Language processing: bottom-up and top-down processing; serial and parallel processing	11 – 14	-	B4,5,6,7	=	=
The social basis The social basis of language: the relationship between language, thought and culture of language: the relationship between language, thought and culture	15	-	B7,8,9	=	=
Finals	16	-			

### 21. Teaching Methods and Assignments:

Development of ILOs is promoted through the following teaching and learning methods:

After most units the students do exercises which they check in class with the lecturer. The students are also expected to read at home relevant chapters from obligatory references, and advised to read selected parts from additional literature, which further help them in acquiring better insight into the subject matter.

### 22. Evaluation Methods and Course Requirements:

Opportunities to demonstrate achievement of the ILOs are provided through the following assessment methods and requirements:

Mid-term Exam: 30%; participation: 10%; Quiz: 10%; Final Exam: 50%.

### 23. Course Policies:

A- Attendance policies:

Students are expected to be in class on time. The University allows students to be absent up to **SEVEN times (Sun-Tue-Thu) and FIVE times (Mon-Wed)**. These times include those with an excuse. Students exceeding this limit will not be allowed to sit for the final exam. The only excuse that would remove absence from a students' record is in case of a conflict with another course (a scheduled written exam).

B- Absences from exams and handing in assignments on time:

In case of absence in exams because of sickness, only reports issued directly from a public clinic or hospital will be accepted. Medical reports from private practiced doctors or private hospitals will not be accepted even if they are stamped by the university's clinic. Reports should be produced within a week after the exam. **No exceptions.**

C- Health and safety procedures:

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D- Honesty policy regarding cheating, plagiarism, misbehavior:

Cheating, plagiarism, and misbehavior will not be tolerated in class or during examinations and will be dealt with according to the university's regulations.

E- Grading policy:

20%: class work/quiz(es)/participation

30%: Midterm Examination

50%: Final Examination

F- Available university services that support achievement in the course:

The University's main Library and the Humanities Library

## 24. Required equipment:

## 25. References:

A- Required book (s), assigned reading and audio-visuals:

- Field, John (2003) *Psycholinguistics*, London and New York: Routledge
- Harley, Trevor (2001) *The Psychology of Language: From Data to Theory*, Hove and New York: Psychology Press Ltd.
- Steinberg, Danny, Hiroshi Nagata and David Aline (2001, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.) *Psycholinguistics: Language, Mind and World*, Harlow: Longman

B- Recommended books, materials, and media:

- Aitchison, Jean (1998, 4<sup>th</sup> ed.) *The Articulate Mammal: An Introduction to Psycholinguistics* London and New York: Routledge
- Aitchison, Jean (2003) *Words in the Mind: An Introduction to the Mental Lexicon*, Oxford: Blackwell
- Anderson, Stephen and David Lightfoot (2002) *The Language Organ: Linguistics as Cognitive Physiology*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (selected chapters)
- Burling, Robbins (2005) *The Talking Ape: How language evolved*, Oxford: Oxford University Press
- Field, John (2005) *Language and the Mind*, London and New York: Routledge
- Pinker, Steven (2007) *The Stuff of Thought: Language as a Window into Human Nature*, New York: Viking

**26. Additional information:**

Name of Course Coordinator: -----Signature: ----- Date: -----

Head of curriculum committee/Department: ----- Signature: -----

Head of Department: ----- Signature: -----

Head of curriculum committee/Faculty: ----- Signature: -----

Dean: ----- -Signature: -----

Copy to:  
Head of Department  
Assistant Dean for Quality Assurance  
Course File