



PSY274H5F - Language, Mind, and Brain

Delivery Method: **IN-PERSON**

Schedule: **MO 12:00pm – 3:00pm**

Room Location: **MN1210 (Maanjiwe Nendamowinan)**

Contact Information

Instructor:

Dr. Erin Pettibone

erin.pettibone@mail.utoronto.ca

Office hours: Monday, 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm (In-person), or by appointment (via Zoom, see details on Quercus)

Office Location: DH 4003

Teaching Assistant:

Lindsey Thurston

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*Emails must be sent from you **utoronto** account. Please indicate the course number in the subject line.*

Course Description

Language is often described as the quintessential human ability. In this course, you will explore questions such as: Do animals have language? How do children learn language? How do we understand and produce language in real time? How does bilingualism work? What can neuroscience tell us about language abilities? What is the relationship between language and thinking?

Prerequisite: PSY100Y5

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Describe the major terms, concepts, and theories in the psychology of language
- Understand the key challenges that young children face as they attempt to "crack the code" of human communication
- Understand the unconscious processes that underlie how adults produce and comprehend human language
- Explain how experimental results support or refute theories about the nature of language behavior
- Identify key variables in empirical research and infer evidence-based conclusions
- Analyze and critique popular ideas or misconceptions about how language works in relation to the human mind

Reading Material

Sedivy, J. (2020). *Language in mind: An introduction to psycholinguistics (2nd Edition)*, Oxford University Press.

Course Evaluation

The final mark in this course will be based on:

Oct 3	Term Test 1 (25% of final mark)
Nov 7	Term Test 2 (25% of final mark)
Nov 28	Blog Entry Assignment (15% of final mark)
TBA	Final Exam (25% of final mark)
Weekly	Quercus Quizzes on assigned reading (10% of final mark)

- 1. Term Tests.** Term tests (25% each) will consist of multiple-choice, true/false, short answer, and essay questions based on the textbook, lecture material, and class discussions. If you miss a test and your request for special consideration is approved by the department, the value of the test will be redistributed to the final exam. See course policy below.
- 2. Blog Entry Assignment.** For the blog entry assignment (15% of final mark), you will write a blog entry (570-600 words) on a topic related to psycholinguistics addressed in the course. The goal is to explain the topic in a coherent and compelling way to an intelligent, but non-specialist audience. The assignment will require you to draw on outside sources in addition to course materials. More detailed instructions will be provided in early October.
- 3. Final Exam.** The final exam (25%) will be cumulative, with a focus on course content not covered in term test 1 and 2.
- 4. Quercus Quizzes.** The primary goal of the weekly Quercus quizzes (1% each x 10 quizzes = 10%) is to ensure you are doing the course readings. Quizzes will consist of ~5 multiple-choice, true/false, and/or fill-in-the-blank questions. You will have 15 minutes to complete the quiz, which will generally be due by 10:00 am the Monday the assigned reading will be discussed in class (see the course schedule for deadlines). Quizzes will be accessible 1 week prior to the deadline (i.e., beginning the previous Monday at 10:00 am). Please note that Quiz 1 (Chapter 1 & 2) and Quiz 2 (Chapter 3 & 4), will both be due Monday, September 19th at 10:00 am.

Course Webpage

The website associated with this course is accessible via <http://q.utoronto.ca>

Note: You don't need to create a new login for Quercus; it already knows who you are. You just need your UTORid and password. This is the same login that gets you onto the wireless network with your laptop, and the same one that you use to check your email. If you're confused about your UTORid or don't remember your password, go to: <https://www.utorid.utoronto.ca/>

In order to access course material, monitor course information, and view your grades you must log into Quercus. If you have any general questions regarding Quercus, please visit the [help site](#).

Student Tech Requirements and Connection Tools

- [Recommended tech requirements for online learning](#)
- [UTM Library Learn Anywhere resource website](#)

IMPORTANT COURSE POLICIES **PLEASE READ**

Missed Test Special Consideration Request Process

Students who miss a test due to circumstances beyond their control (e.g., illness or an accident) can request that the Department grant them special consideration. Students must present their case to the Department

(NOT the Instructor) by submitting a request via the online Special Consideration Request form at: <https://utmapp.utm.utoronto.ca/SpecialRequest>.

Important note: If you sit down and receive a test, you will **NOT** be able to receive special consideration.

If your request is approved by the department, the value of the test will be redistributed to the final examination.

Extension of Time Special Consideration Request Process

Students who seek to be granted more time to complete their term work beyond the due date without penalty, owing to circumstances beyond their control (e.g., illness, or an accident), must do so by submitting a request **directly to the Instructor** for the period up to and including the last day of the term. The decision as to whether or not to apply a penalty for the specified period rests with the Instructor.

Students who seek to be granted more time to complete term work beyond the last day of the term must submit their request directly to the Department. This request covers the period following the last day of classes and ends the last day of the exam period. This is done by submitting a request via the online Special Consideration Request form at <https://utmapp.utm.utoronto.ca/SpecialRequest>. You are advised to seek advising by the departmental Undergraduate Counsellor prior to the deadline.

Supporting Documentation

The University is temporarily suspending the need for a doctor's note or medical certificate for any absence from academic participation. However, you are required to use the Absence Declaration tool on ACORN found in the Profile and Settings menu to formally declare an absence from academic participation. The tool is to be used if you require consideration for missed academic work based on the procedures specific to our campus/department.

Missed Final Exam or Extension of Time beyond exam period

Missed final exams or for extensions of time beyond the examination period you must submit a petition through the [Office of the Registrar](#) and follow their procedures.

Penalties for Lateness

A penalty of 10% per calendar day (i.e., including weekends and holidays, during which students are not able to submit term work) up to and including the last day of classes, will be applied by the Instructor. After the last day of classes, the penalty of 10% per calendar day will be applied by the Undergraduate Counsellor on behalf of the Department. No penalty will be assigned if request for special consideration, described above, was successful.

Academic Guidelines

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have met all prerequisites listed in the UTM Calendar for this course. If you lack any prerequisites you WILL BE REMOVED from the course up until the last day to add a course. Further information about academic regulations, course withdrawal dates and credits can be found in the [University of Toronto Mississauga Calendar](#).

You are encouraged to read this material. If you run into trouble and need advice about studying, preparing for exams, note taking or time management, free workshops and advice are available from the Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre at 905-828-5406.

AccessAbility Services

The University provides academic accommodations for students with disabilities in accordance with the terms of the Ontario Human Rights Code. This occurs through a collaborative process that acknowledges a collective obligation to develop an accessible learning environment that both meets the needs of students and preserves the essential academic requirements of the University's courses and programs. Students requiring academic accommodations for learning, physical, sensory, or mental health disabilities or medical conditions should contact the AccessAbility Office (2037B Davis Building), 905-828-3847.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Toronto Mississauga is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, UTM treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously.

The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters outlines behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the process for addressing academic offences. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

In papers and assignments:

1. Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
2. Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
3. Making up sources or facts.
4. Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment.

On tests and exams:

1. Using or possessing unauthorized aids.
2. Looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test.
3. Misrepresenting your identity.

In academic work:

1. Falsifying institutional documents or grades.
2. Falsifying or altering any documentation required, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes.

With regard to remote learning and online courses, UTM wishes to remind students that they are expected to adhere to **the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters** regardless of the course delivery method. By offering students the opportunity to learn remotely, UTM expects that students will maintain the same academic honesty and integrity that they would in a classroom setting. Potential academic offences in a digital context include, but are not limited to:

Remote assessments:

1. Accessing unauthorized resources (search engines, chat rooms, Reddit, etc.) for assessments.
2. Using technological aids (e.g. software) beyond what is listed as permitted in an assessment.
3. Posting test, essay, or exam questions to message boards or social media.
4. Creating, accessing, and sharing assessment questions and answers in virtual "course groups."
5. Working collaboratively, in-person or online, with others on assessments that are expected to be completed individually.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources.

Academic Rights

You, as a student at UTM, have the right to:

- Receive a syllabus by the first day of class.
- Rely upon a syllabus once a course is started. An instructor may only change marks' assignments by following the University Assessment and Grading Practices Policy provision 1.3.
- Refuse to use turnitin.com (you must be offered an alternative form of submission).
- Have access to your instructor for consultation during a course or follow up with the department chair if the instructor is unavailable.
- Ask the person who marked your term work for a re-evaluation if you feel it was not fairly graded. You have up to one month from the date of return of the item to inquire about the mark. If you are not satisfied with a re-evaluation, you may appeal to the instructor in charge of the course if the instructor did not mark the work. If your work is remarked, you must accept the resulting mark. You may only appeal a mark beyond the instructor if the term work was worth at least 20% of the course mark.
- Receive at least one significant mark (15% for H courses, 25% for Y courses) before the last day you can drop a course for H courses, and the last day of classes in the first week of January for Y courses taught in the Fall/Winter terms.
- Submit handwritten essays so long as they are neatly written.
- Have no assignment worth 100% of your final grade.
- Not have a term test worth more than 25% in the last two weeks of class.
- Retain intellectual property rights to your research.
- Receive all your assignments once graded.
- View your final exams. To see a final exam, you must submit an online Exam Reproduction Request within 6 months of the exam. There is a small non-refundable fee.
- Privacy of your final grades.
- Arrange for representation from Downtown Legal Services (DLS), a representative from the UTM Students' Union (UTMSU), and/or other forms of support if you are charged with an academic offence.

Equity Statement

The University of Toronto is committed to equity and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect. As a course instructor, I will neither condone nor tolerate behaviour that undermines the dignity or self-esteem of any individual in this course and wish to be alerted to any attempt to create an intimidating or hostile environment. It is our collective responsibility to create a space that is inclusive and welcomes discussion. Discrimination, harassment and hate speech will not be tolerated. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns you may contact the UTM Equity and Diversity officer at edo.utm@utoronto.ca or the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union Vice President Equity at vpequity@utmsu.ca.

Course Outline

Please note that this outline is subject to change depending on the needs of the class (we may need additional time to cover a topic). Any changes to the syllabus will be announced in class one week before. However, the assignment and test dates are fixed.

Date	Topic	Required Readings
September 12	Communication, human language, and mental machinery: What is the psychology of language all about?	Chapter 1 (full) Chapter 2 (full)
September 19	Language and the brain; Learning the sounds of language Quercus Quiz 1 & 2	Chapter 3 (read to the end of Section 3.2) Chapter 4 (read to the end of Section 4.3)
September 26	Learning words and sentence structure Quercus Quiz 3	Chapter 5 (read to the end of section 5.3) Chapter 6 (read to the end of section 6.2)
October 3	Test 1	
October 10	Thanksgiving (no classes)	
October 17	Perceiving the sounds of speech; Recognizing spoken words Quercus Quiz 4	Chapter 7 (read to the end of section 7.2) Chapter 8 (read to the end of section 8.3)
October 24	Visual word recognition and aspects of reading; Comprehending sentences Quercus Quiz 5	Chapter 8 (section 8.4, ending on p. 338) Wikipedia entry on "writing systems" https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Writing_system Chapter 9 (read to the end of section 9.1)
October 31	More on sentence comprehension Quercus Quiz 6	Chapter 9 (read sections 9.2 to 9.4)
November 7	Test 2	
November 14	Producing language: from ideas to utterances Quercus Quiz 7	Chapter 10 (read to the end of section 10.4)
November 21	Beyond words and sentences : Inference and the connectedness of discourse Quercus Quiz 8	Chapter 11 (read to the end of section 11.4)

November 28	The social side of language Quercus Quiz 9 Blog entry assignment due Monday Nov 28th by 9:00 pm on Quercus	Chapter 12 (full)
December 5	Differences across languages and their cognitive implications Quercus Quiz 10	Chapter 13 (full)
December 9 – 20	Final Exam Period	

Final Exam: It is the student's responsibility to be available for the entire exam period.