

CATALOG YEAR 2009-2010

(Please use separate form for each add/change)

COLLEGE/SCHOOL : Arts and Sciences

Current Catalog Page(s) Affected p. 360

Course: Add: X Delete: _____
(check all that apply) Change: _____ Number: **4309** Title **Foundations of Language SCH 3**
Description: **see below** Prerequisite **see below**

PSYC 4309

Foundations of Language

Three semester hours.

This course explores basic theoretical issues concerning the nature of human language. Topics include the intricate system that governs language acquisition, linguistic competence and performance, the similarities and differences among world languages, and the relationship between spoken and written language. Prerequisite: PSYC 2301, or permission of instructor.

Justification: To cover an area of Psychology/Cognitive Science that is not currently offered in coursework and for which there is extensive student demand in the Psychology discipline, and Communication Disorders.

Program: Add: _____ Change: _____ Attach new/changed Program of Study description and 4-year plan. If in current catalog, copy and paste the text from the and indicate changes in red.

Minor: Add: _____ Delete: _____ Change: _____ Attach new/changed minor. If in current catalog, copy and paste the text from the and indicate changes in red.

Faculty: Add: _____ Delete: _____ Change: _____ Attach new/changed faculty entry. If in current catalog, copy and paste the text from the and indicate changes in red.

College Introductory Pages: Add information: _____ Change information: _____ Attach new/changed information. If in current catalog, copy and paste the text from the and indicate changes in red.

Approvals:

Signature

Date

Chair

Department Curriculum Committee _____

Chair

Department _____

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College Curriculum Committee _____

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Foundations of Language (PSYC 4309)
Spring 2010

Professor: Anna B. Cieslicka, Ph.D.	URL: http://www.tamtu.edu/~acieslicka/
Office: CH 205B	E-mail: anna.cieslicka@tamtu.edu
Office Hours: MW 3: 00 - 5:00 PM & TH 3:00 - 4:00 PM or by appointment	Phone: (956) 326-2637
Class Time & Place: TR 4:30 - 5:45; BH 118	

Course Description:

Foundations of Language (click [here](#) for more information about language) addresses basic theoretical issues concerning the nature of human language. Topics include the intricate system that governs language acquisition, linguistic competence and performance, the similarities and differences among world languages, and the relationship between spoken and written language. This course provides an integrated perspective on human language abilities. Prerequisite: PSYC 2301, or permission of instructor.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Demonstrate basic level knowledge in the scientific analysis of the building blocks of language.
2. Demonstrate basic understanding of the different theoretical perspectives (e.g., generative grammar) on how humans acquire and use language.
3. Demonstrate basic understanding of the differences between spoken and written language and become better language users.
4. To Demonstrate a basic understanding of the relevant research-methods in language research to critically evaluate the research in this area.
5. To write a well-based literature review on a topic of that is related to language. The student should demonstrate a basic understanding of the research process, synthesize the existing information and master the APA writing style.
6. To demonstrate an understanding of the student's own linguistic abilities, and linguistic systems.

Prerequisites:

Previous successful completion of Introduction to Psychology ([Psyc 1301 or 2301](#)) or permission of instructor.

Required Text:

Fromkin, V., Rodman, R., Hyams, N. (2007). *An introduction to language* (8th. ed.). Florence, KY: Cengage Learning. (ISBN-10: 1413017738 | ISBN-13: 9781413017731)

Pinker, S. (1994). *The language instinct: How the mind creates language*. New York, NY: Harper Perennial Modern Classics.

Pullum, G. K. (1991). *The great Eskimo vocabulary hoax and other irreverent essays on the study of language*. Chicago, ILL: Chicago University Press. (ISBN: 9780226685342)

Course Philosophy:

The assumption underlying this class is that we are responsible college students and that we want to learn how

to do high quality work. To better prepare for class discussions, please visit your book's [Student's Companion Site](#) for learning aids, such as crossword puzzles, flashcards, and an excellent glossary.

Classroom Behavior:

The [College of Arts and Sciences](#) encourages classroom discussion and academic debate as an essential intellectual activity. It is essential that students learn to express and defend their beliefs, but it is also essential that they learn to listen and respond respectfully to others whose beliefs they may not share. The College will always tolerate diverse, unorthodox, and unpopular points of view, but it will not tolerate condescending or insulting remarks. When students verbally abuse or ridicule and intimidate others whose views they do not agree with, they subvert the free exchange of ideas that should characterize a university classroom. If their actions are deemed by the professor to be disruptive, they will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, which may include being involuntarily withdrawn from the class (**Important: Schedule and procedures are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances**).

Warning Concerning Copyright Restrictions:

The [Copyright Act of 1976](#) grants to copyright owners the exclusive right to reproduce their works and distribute copies of their work. Works that receive copyright protection include published works such as a textbook. Copying a textbook without permission from the owner of the copyright may constitute copyright infringement. Civil and criminal penalties may be assessed for copyright infringement. Civil penalties include damages up to \$100,000; criminal penalties include a fine up to \$250,000 and imprisonment.

Copyright laws do allow students and professors to make photocopies of copyrighted materials under strict conditions. You may not copy most, much less all, of a work, but you may copy a limited portion of a work, such as an article from a journal or a chapter from a book. These copies must be for your own personal academic use or, in the case of a professor, for personal, limited classroom use. In general, the extent of your copying should not suggest that the purpose or the effect of your copying is to avoid paying for the materials. And, of course, you may not sell these copies for a profit. Thus, students who copy textbooks to avoid buying them or professors who provide photocopies of textbooks to enable students to save money are both violating the law.

Plagiarism and Cheating:

[Plagiarism](#) is the presentation of someone else's work as one's own. Recently, the Internet has complicated the picture. Getting (i.e., Purchasing) something from the Internet and presenting it as one's own is still plagiarism. Copying another student's paper or a portion of the paper - is usually called "copying." Neither plagiarism nor copying will be tolerated. Should a faculty member discover that a student has committed [plagiarism](#), the student will receive a grade of "F" in that course and the matter will be referred to Associate Vice President for Student Affairs for possible disciplinary action.

Integrity and Honor:

All work you turn in is to be your own original work. You may not turn in another person's work as yours. You may not receive assistance during the test from another person, nor from any information of materials unless authorized by the professor.

Students with Disabilities:

[Texas A&M International University](#) seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all qualified persons with disabilities. This University will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal education opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to register with the [Disabilities Services Coordinator](#) and to contact the faculty member in a timely fashion to arrange for suitable accommodations.

Incompletes:

Incompletes are discouraged and are assigned only under extenuating circumstances. To qualify for an incomplete, the student must be passing the course and have completed 85-90% of the time the incomplete is approved. In fairness to those students who complete the course as scheduled, under no circumstances will an Incomplete ("I") be changed to an "A" unless the student has experienced a death in the immediate family or has a written medical excuse from a physician.

Independent Study Courses:

Independent Study (IS) courses are offered only under exceptional circumstances. The chair of the department is to determine whether the IS will be offered on the basis of the student's and the University's needs, as certified by the University Registrar. No student will take more than one IS course per semester. Moreover, IS courses are limited to seniors and graduate students. Summer IS course must continue through both summer sessions.

Student Responsibility for Dropping a Course:

"It is the responsibility of the STUDENT to drop the course before the drop date. Faculty are not responsible for dropping students who suspend class attendance."

Student E-mail Address:

All students must obtain a [TAMU E-mail address](#).

Other Important issues to consider:

1. Class starts on time.
2. Turn off your cellular phone/beeper. Students will be asked to leave classroom if telephones ring during lecture.
3. You are very welcome to bring your computer to class, but please make sure that you are not "surfing" during class time.

Class Format:

Class will consist of a mixture of lecture, discussion, and in class activities. Active participation in class is strongly encouraged. There is considerable reading and writing to be done and much to think about. Don't allow yourself to get behind in the reading. You are expected to master the basic material covered in the readings and in lectures, and to participate actively in class. The lectures in the course are designed to supplement the readings. As such, you can expect lectures to present ideas that are not always covered in the readings. Your success in this course depends on attending class regularly and taking thorough notes. If you simply cannot avoid missing a class, borrow notes from a classmate.

Evaluation:

- (1). There will be 2 *in-class* midterms and a final examination each worth 50 points consisting of multiple choice and/or short answers and essay questions. The instructor's aim is to ensure that you have understood the ideas and concepts presented and have gained some ability to reason from a psycholinguistic perspective. The final exam will be comprehensive.
- (2). Students are encouraged to participate in class discussions. The purpose of these sections is to allow a more in-depth discussion of the issues discussed in the lectures and readings, particularly a discussion of the ways in which these issues apply to problems in everyday life.
- (3). There will be an 8-12 double-spaced page research report worth 15 points, with at least eight references

(Psychology Today and Internet articles do not count: Consult with your professor if you have any questions). For a sample paper please [click here](#). The paper should address a topic in [language](#). The paper should be written in [APA](#) (5h Ed.) style. [Writing well is a skill that needs to be developed. It requires a lot of practice and a lot of EDITING.](#) If you need assistance with your writing please visit the [Enrichment Center](#) where you can be helped. If you need word-processing software, you can obtain the [OpenOffice.org](#) application suite completely [FREE](#) (as in freedom), or [Abiword](#) another excellent word processor [FREE](#) (as in freedom). Late assignments will not be accepted.

4. To better appreciate and learn the methods of psychology, you are required to participate in 1 on-going psychological experiment. Students with learning, visual, or hearing disabilities are exempt from this requirement. This exemption also applies to participants that may not meet the specific requirements of the particular experiment or study. As an alternative, if you do not wish to participate in psychological experiments, you can write two 4-5 paged review of a journal article. Please discuss this possibility with your professor.

(5). About assignment, and Requirements: ALL assignments and requirements must be completed to pass the course. Assignments are due at the beginning of class. Late Assignments will not be accepted.

Make-ups:

If a student has to miss a session or exam because of medical or other compelling reasons, an exam will be scheduled ONLY under the following conditions: (1) the student notifies the instructor BEFORE the session about his or her inability to attend the session, (2) the student is able to provide a document providing a reason for his or her absence during the session. Unsubstantiated claims (without a doctor's note) will receive a 50% grade reduction on that particular exam.

Summary: Points will accumulate over the semester such that there will be:

3 Examinations	@ 50 Points	150 Points
Research Paper	@ 15 Points	15 Points
Participation & Attendance	@ 10 Points	10 Points

TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS: 175

A = 90-100%	B = 80-89%	C = 70-79%	D = 60-69%	F = 59% and below
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Extra-Credit:

You can earn extra points by participating in ongoing research projects. After you complete 1 required hour, you will earn 2 extra points for every additional hour (up to 3 hours) that you participate.

Related websites of interest to the student:

Links to Information on APA Publication Style: <http://www.tiac.net/users/fscpac1/apa.htm>

Tips on how to take Multiple Choice Exams: <http://jan.ucc.nau.edu/~haw4/test.html>

Writing Workshop: <http://jan.ucc.nau.edu/~writcnt/>

Psychology with Style: <http://www.uwsp.edu/acad/psych/apa4.htm>

APA Style Resources: <http://www.psych-web.com/resource/apacrib.htm>

Also, you can obtain a Spreadsheet (like Excel) completely Free: <http://www.openoffice.org/>

FOR [FREE](#) ([OPEN SOURCE](#)) SOFTWARE (Windows, Macintosh, & Linux), VISIT MY [WEB PAGE](#) IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR FREE PROGRAMS FOR WINDOWS, MACHINTOSH, OR LINUX (E.G., WORD PROCESSOR, SPREADSHEET, AND PRESENTATION), OBTAINED THEM [FREE](#) BY SIMPLY CLICKING [HERE](#).

NOTE: The above schedule and procedures in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.

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