

# CLPS 1800: LANGUAGE PROCESSING

Asst. Prof. Laura Kertz  
Cognitive, Linguistic, & Psychological Sciences  
Brown University  
prof\_kertz@brown.edu

Fall 2012  
M W F 11:00 am - 11:50 am  
Metcalf Labs 105

Office Hours  
Tu 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm  
Metcalf 241

## GOALS

This course explores the nature of language processing with the goal of understanding how we produce and comprehend language. Special emphasis is placed on the relationship between linguistic theory and psycholinguistic models of language processing. At the end of this course, students should have developed an understanding of the key concepts in language processing research as well as the types of methodologies employed therein. Students should be able to critically evaluate published research, to identify research questions that are relevant to the field, and to engage in independent research.

## PREREQUISITE

One of CLPS 0020 (COGS 0010), CLPS 0030 (COGS 0410), or CLPS 0800 (COGS 0450).

## TEXT AND READINGS

Traxler, M. (2012) *Introduction to Psycholinguistics*. Wiley-Blackwell.

The course **textbook** is available for purchase at the Brown Bookstore and online as an [e-book](#) through the library. Links to **additional readings** will be posted on the course web site.

## FORMAT AND ASSESSMENT

Classes alternate between lecture and discussion. Students are expected to attend class and to have completed all background readings prior to class.

- There will be a minimum of ten reading assignments during the semester. (Some weeks will have no assigned reading.) For **eight** of these, students are required to submit a **500 word response** to the reading. The response must be submitted online through the course website by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday of the week for which the reading is assigned. The response must engage thoughtfully with the subject matter. You may raise questions, propose extensions, or otherwise engage with the content. Each response is worth 3 points toward the final grade, and responses will be assigned a grade of 0 or 3 (all or nothing). My goal is for everyone to gain full credit for this portion of the grade, so please capitalize on this opportunity to reflect on the course material BEFORE coming to class.
- Students will be asked to make **one in-class presentation** of a research article assigned for reading. Presentations will be made in pairs (or larger groups). Students will be expected to teach the content to their classmates (25 mins) and to lead discussion following their presentation (25 mins).
- Students will write **two critical reviews** of research papers. One review will respond to the paper used for the in-class presentation. (While these are group presentations, each student must write his/her own review.) A second review will address an article of the student's choosing (subject to approval). This second article, ideally, will inform research for the final project.
- Students will complete **2 hours of research participation** through the SONA subject pool or complete a 2,000 word essay on an approved topic.
- All students will complete a **final research project**. Students will have the option of writing a literature review on a topic of their choosing or developing a design for a novel experiment. The research project will be developed in three phases: proposal, presentation, final paper.

Weighting of each of these components in assessing final grades will be as follows:

24%	Reading response (8 entries @ 3 points each)
8%	In-class presentation of research article
25%	Critical reviews
3%	Research participation or essay
10%	Research project proposal
5%	Research project presentation (during reading period)
25%	Final project paper (due on final exam date)

## COURSE CONTENT

The following is a provisional list of topics to be covered. The official (and up to date) course schedule, including reading assignments, is available from the course web site.

- |                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| • Words and meaning | • Discourse      |
| • Grammar & Parsing | • Production     |
| • Issues in parsing | • Priming        |
| • Working memory    | • Dialogue       |
| • Reference         | • Special topics |