

**College of Education and Behavioral Sciences
Department of Psychology
Proposal to Create a Temporary Course
(Information Item)**

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1. Identification of proposed course

- 1.1 Course prefix (subject area) and number: PSY 408
- 1.2 Course title: Psychology of Language
- 1.3 Abbreviated course title: Psychology of Language
- 1.4 Credit hours: 3
- 1.5 Schedule type: L (Lecture)
- 1.6 Prerequisites: PSY 210 and PSY 211 with a grade of "C" or better, and junior standing or permission of the instructor
- 1.7 Course description: Overview of scientific study of human language abilities, with primary emphasis on individual psychological mechanisms.

2. Rationale

- 2.1 Reason for offering this course on a temporary basis: The course is currently pending review and approval as a permanent addition to the psychology curriculum (to be listed as PSY 408). In the interim, this proposal serves to offer the course in a timely manner for Fall 2013 registration. Psychology of Language (also known as Psycholinguistics) encompasses several areas that are central to understanding human cognition and behavior; for example, how humans read, speak, and comprehend language. The course emphasizes the importance of scientific methods to better understand individual language abilities, and thus provides a strong addition to the department's emphasis on psychological science. Psycholinguistics is also part of an emergent field of study called cognitive science, which is at the forefront of modern psychological research. Whereas linguistics studies the origin, structure, and use of language, and sociolinguistics examines the relationship between language and social behavior, psycholinguistics uses empirical methods to understand the cognitive and neurological abilities that give rise to an individual's language capabilities. Finally, Psychology of Language is a common offering at other universities (Stoloff et al., 2010), particularly ones as large (or larger) as WKU.
- 2.2 Relationship of the proposed course to courses offered in other academic units: There is no course on campus that addresses the full range of psychological mechanisms underlying language abilities. The English Department offers an Introduction to Linguistics (ENG 104) that emphasizes English language structure and meaning, but the course does not focus on individual psychological mechanisms (e.g., the influence of short-term memory capacity on reading patterns) or scientific research on those mechanisms. ENG 408 (Psycholinguistics & Sociolinguistics) examines sociolinguistics, language development, and psycholinguistics in the context of the English major. CD 347, 481 and 486 (Bases of Speech; Speech and Language Development;

Language Disorders) examine speech disorders in the context of sociolinguistic and psycholinguistic issues, with a greater focus on treatment and therapies. LTCY 199 (and other Literacy courses) focus on developing reading skills, but do not examine the cognitive and neurological mechanisms underlying the full range of linguistic abilities.

3. Description of proposed course

3.1 Course content outline:

- Introduction to Psycholinguistics
 - Basic language processes
 - History of psycholinguistic research
 - Context of psycholinguistics in psychology history
- Linguistic Principles
 - Basic Grammar Concepts
 - Transformational Grammar
 - Grammatical Theory
- Psychological Mechanisms
 - Working Memory & Long Term Memory
 - Serial vs. Parallel Processing
 - Top Down vs. Bottom Up Processing
 - Automated vs. Controlled Processing
 - Modularity
- Language Perception
 - Speech structure
 - Speech segments vs. continuous speech
 - Written language perception
- Word Comprehension
 - Internal Lexicon (Phonology, Syntax, Morphology, Semantics)
 - Organization of semantic network
 - Lexical access
- Sentence Comprehension & Memory
 - Sentence processing & timing
 - Figurative language
 - Sentence memory
- Discourse Comprehension & Memory
 - Local vs. global discourse structure
 - Cohesion and coherence
 - Discourse memory
 - Schemata
- Language Production
 - Speech errors
 - Formulating and implementing speech plans
- Conversational Dynamics
 - Conversation structure
 - Conversation participants and settings
- Language Acquisition
 - Pre-linguistic communication

- Early phonology and grammar
 - Later Language Acquisition
 - Later morphology and syntactic development
 - Metalinguistic emergence
 - Bilingualism and second-language acquisition
 - Language Acquisition Processes
 - Linguistic environment (feral and isolation)
 - Cognitive processes and innate mechanisms
 - Biological Underpinnings of Language
 - Brain mechanisms
 - Lateralization of language processes
 - Language evolution
 - Language influences on culture and cognition
 - Whorf hypothesis
 - Lexical and grammatical influences on cognition
- 3.2 Tentative text(s): Carroll, D.W. (2008). *Psychology of Language* (5th edition). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

4. Second offering of a temporary course (if applicable)

- 4.1 Reason for offering this course a second time on a temporary basis:
- 4.2 Term course was first offered:
- 4.3 Enrollment in first offering:

5. Term of Implementation: Fall 2013

6. Dates of review/approvals:

Department of Psychology: _____

CEBS Curriculum Committee _____

CEBS Dean _____

UCC Chair _____

Provost: _____

Attachment: Course Inventory Form

Office of the Registrar

COURSE INVENTORY FORM

Check One Create New Course Temporary Course Offering

1. Has this course previously been offered on a temporary basis? Yes No If yes, indicate the term offered

2. Subject Area Course Number Course Title (as it should appear on the transcript; maximum of 30 letters & spaces)

3. Term for Implementation (e.g., Spring 2012=201210, Fall 2012=201230)

4. Official Course Title

5. Offering Unit (See Table of Code Values.) College Department

6. Credit Hours Fixed Credit Hours: Variable Credit Hours

7. Repeat Limit (See instructions.) Total Maximum Hours (See instructions.)

8. Grading (Check all that apply.) Standard Letter Grading Pass/Fail Only No Grade In Progress - IP (Course is intended to span more than one term.)

9. Schedule Type (See Table of Schedule Types.)

10. Corequisites (courses required to be taken concurrently with this course) Subject Area Course Number Subject Area Course Number Subject Area Course Number

11. Equivalent Courses (Include South Campus [C suffix] courses and other equivalent courses.) Subject Area Course Number Subject Area Course Number Subject Area Course Number

12. Prerequisites (See instructions.) Subject Area Course Number Subject Area Course Number Subject Area Course Number

13. Course Attribute Honors Course Developmental Course Other:

14. Course Restrictions Include Exclude College College Major Major Classification

15. Course Description (Indicate exactly as it should appear in the University Catalog. Include pertinent special information, e.g., course fees, pass/fail grading, field trips, transportation requirements, etc.)

16. Approvals for Temporary Course Only: Department Head Sam Evans Date 2-6-2013 College Dean Dean Janet Apple Date 2-6-2013 Graduate Dean _____ Date _____ Provost Office: _____ Date _____

Office of the Registrar Use UCC _____ University Senate _____ CIP _____ Course Desc _____ Graduate Council _____ Provost _____ Banner Data _____ Evaluate _____