

Experimental Linguistics

Jan-March 2014 - Tuesday 2-4pm

Linguistics Research Centre - Seminar Room

Convenor: Linnaea Stockall

Module Goals:

The goal of this module is to take students with no prior training in the methods or tools of experimental psychological science and provide them with the theoretical and practical training required to be able to critically engage with the psycholinguistics literature and to undertake experimental linguistics research themselves. The module will include hands-on training in inferential statistics and hypothesis testing, experimental design, data collection (including training in ethical human subjects research protocols), and data analysis. The module will also engage students in considering strengths and limitations of various kinds of linguistics data, and how multiple sources of data and methods of data collection can be combined to enhance understanding. Students will develop their critical reading skills and gain practice in presenting primary source literature to their peers.

Assessment

assignment	type	percent	due date
1. conduct and analyse a linguistics experiment, present results, write up results	solo or group	70	during term/by April 30
2. lead class discussion with handout	solo	30	by March 4

Experiment: data collection, analysis, presentation & write-up [50%^A + 20%^B]

A. Working in groups of 2 or more, students will conceive of, design, run and analyze a linguistics experiment. All students will participate in collecting and collating data for this experiment. This may include: setting up a computer with experiment running software, piloting the experiment on yourselves, recruiting participants who meet the subject criteria, following human subjects research ethics protocols, collecting data, backing up data, maintaining a log book and formatting data for analysis. There will be two weeks of class devoted to data analysis workshops.

In the last class of the semester, each group will give an oral presentation of their results.

B. Students will each write up their own individual summary of the experiment results and offer an analysis of those results in a 2000 word report.

Class Discussion & Handout [20%^A + 10%^B]

A. Each student will chose a paper (with consultation with module convener) and prepare to lead the class discussion on this reading. Each student will prepare a handout to use for this task. The marks for this assignment will be based on the presentation and handout. Students are encouraged to meet with the instructor well in advance of the class during which they will present in order to discuss the reading and how they might best lead the discussion.

B. Students are expected to be active and engaged participants during the presentations of other students. 10% of the module mark will be based on participation in class discussions.