**ASSESSMENT INFORMATION**

**Course title:** Experimental research on language learning and processing

**Course dates:** Sat 5 & Mon 7 December, 2015 (afternoons)

**Contact hours:** 6 hours

**Instructor:** A/Prof Paola Escudero, Western Sydney University  
Dr Marina Kalashnikova, Western Sydney University  
Dr Heather Kember, Western Sydney University  
Dr Karen Mulak, Western Sydney University

**About this course**

**Learning:** This section of the course will focus on the types of research design, methods, and practices commonly employed to investigate the processes of early language acquisition in the first years of a child’s life. We will present recent infancy research studies that have employed preferential looking and eye-tracking paradigms to assess infants’ ability to discriminate linguistic and non-linguistic sounds, normalise speech perception across different speakers and accents, and map novel word forms to novel referents. In addition, the practical implications for the study of early language development in the lab will be discussed.

**Processing:** In this part of the course, we will present several studies that compare processing of prosody across languages. Prosody is the phrasing, rhythm, and melody of speech and provides a wealth of linguistic information, yet it is poorly integrated into models of speech processing. In our experiments we present speech stimuli to participants that vary different aspects of prosodic structure and collect behavioural measures such as recognition memory for words or sounds previously heard, and speed at responding to a specific sound within a spoken utterance. The goal is to develop a model of speech processing that can account for the wide structural variation that exists across different languages.

**Recommended readings**

**Learning:**  
CoEDL Summer School 2015: Assessment


**Processing:**


**Technology requirements: what you need to bring**

None required – feel free to bring a laptop or tablet for note taking.

**ASSESSMENT TASKS**

**General Points**

If you are taking a course for credit you are required to attend the face-to-face component at CoEDL Summer School and sign the attendance roll at each session.

You will submit your assessment task to the course convenor at your home university. Your home university will be responsible for marking your assignments.

Please note that the marking rubric below is a guide which the course convenor at each university is free to adapt if they wish (to meet word count requirements, for example), but they will need to advise you of any changes before Summer School starts.

Your performance in the ‘shell course’ in which you are enrolled at your home institution will reflect the marking system and grades applied in your home university.

If you wish to dispute your mark, you need to take this up with your home university’s course convenor. CoEDL Summer School does not take responsibility for the outcome of university assessment.

**Experimental research on language learning and processing**

(i) Assessment Tasks
To fulfil your home institution assessment requirements for this course, you are required to complete the task(s) listed below, plus any other assessment tasks as directed by your course convenor at your home institution:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short answer questions x 3 (learning)</td>
<td>200 word response per question (total of 600 words)</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>Contact your course convenor at your home university.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short answer questions x 3 (processing)</td>
<td>200 word response per question (total of 600 words)</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>Contact your course convenor at your home university.</td>
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(ii) Assessment Criteria and Marking Rubric

**Short answer questions**: 6 questions will be set (3 from learning and 3 from processing). These questions will assess your understanding of major theories, methodologies, and practical implications for research described in each section of the course.

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<tr>
<th>Assessment Criteria</th>
<th>HD</th>
<th>DN</th>
<th>CR</th>
<th>PS</th>
<th>Fail</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<td>Provides a comprehensive and accurate description of the theoretical and empirical background information.</td>
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<td>Demonstrates a critical evaluation of the <em>relevant</em> literature and empirical findings.</td>
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<td>Communicates information in a clear and logical way using appropriate terminology and grammar.</td>
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<td>References relevant literature. All referencing adheres strictly to APA referencing conventions.</td>
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General feedback: