PSY 4920
RESEARCH TOPICS: LANGUAGE ADAPTATIONS

(NOTE: This is an example of what a syllabus for this course might look like. Specific content will vary by instructor and research topic).

Instructor
Michael Kaschak
Office: B435, PDB
Phone: (850)644-9363
Email: kaschak@psy.fsu.edu

Prerequisites: PSY 2012 (General Psychology); Permission of instructor

Description

Research Topics is designed to provide students with the opportunity for an in-depth research experience. This particular research topic will introduce students to research into the mechanisms through which adults continue to adapt their linguistic behavior to the changes that occur in their linguistic environment (e.g., meeting someone who speaks an unfamiliar dialect of English). At the end of the semester, students will be able to:

1 – Describe fundamental theories that explain how one’s linguistic behavior changes over time, with a particular emphasis on the cognitive mechanisms that drive these changes. Knowledge in this area will be assessed through discussions with Dr. Kaschak and the graduate students in the lab, as well as through the written product that is generated during the semester.

2 – Understand the typical research methods employed in this area of research, including their strengths and weaknesses. Understanding of research methods will be demonstrated by the students’ performance in the lab conducting research, and through the discussion of research methods in the students’ written assignment.

3 – Communicate about research on language in a way that is both accessible and scholarly. Communication about research will be assessed through discussions with Dr. Kaschak and the graduate students in the lab, as well as through the quality of the written assignment.

Liberal Studies – Formative Experience Course

This course has been approved as a Liberal Studies Formative Experience and is thus designed to help you use and develop knowledge by engaging in a hands-on experience outside the classroom. Formative Experiences provide an alternative way to fulfill one of the two required Scholarship in Practice courses. Students can meet one SIP requirement by completing a Formative Experience course. In order to fulfill the Formative Experiences requirement, the student must earn a C- or better, or an S in the course if taken on an S/U basis.
**Student Responsibilities**
Students will be expected to:

1) Be punctual to all meetings and designated work hours in the lab
2) Execute their duties in the lab in a manner that is professional and conducive to scientific rigor
3) Independently find and read articles in the research literature that are relevant to the study of language and language adaptations, and be prepared to discuss these with Dr. Kaschak and his graduate students
4) Write a paper on a topic that is relevant to the ongoing research in the lab

**Research Paper**
Students will be expected to complete a paper as part of this course. The paper will be a relatively short written document (~ 5 pages or less) on a topic that is relevant to the research that was performed during the semester. The paper may be a description of the specific research that the student conducted (including an introduction, methods, results, and discussion), a research proposal (including an introduction and proposed methods), or may take another form that is agreed upon by Dr. Kaschak. In order to facilitate the development of writing skills in this domain, students are encouraged to share multiple drafts of their paper with Dr. Kaschak. However, only one rough draft is required to be submitted. This is due by November 10. The final paper, incorporating the feedback received on the draft, will be due on December 10.

**Grading**
This course is graded on the S/U scale. Students will earn a grade of “S” in the course by continually meeting the student responsibilities outlined above, and by completing the research paper in a timely fashion. More than 3 unexcused absences or failure to complete the paper will result in a grade of “U” for the course.

**University Attendance Policy**
Excused absences include documented illnesses, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

**Academic Honor Policy**
The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University’s expectations for the integrity of students’ academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to “…be honest and truthful and...[to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at http://fda.fsu.edu/Academics/Academic-Honor-Policy).
Americans with Disabilities Act
Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodation to a student until appropriate verification from the Student Disability Resource Center has been provided. This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the: Student Disability Resource Center, 874 Traditions Way, 108 Student Services Building, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL, 32306-4167; (850)644-9566 (voice); (850)644-8504 (TDD); sdrc@admin.fsu.edu http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu

Free Tutoring from FSU
On-campus tutoring and writing assistance is available for many courses at Florida State University. For more information, visit the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) Tutoring Services’ comprehensive list of on-campus tutoring options at http://ace.fsu.edu/tutoring, or contact tutor@fsu.edu. High-quality tutoring is available by appointment and on a walk-in basis. These services are offered by tutors trained to encourage the highest level of individual academic success while upholding personal academic integrity.

Syllabus Change Policy
Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.
Course Schedule
[This will vary from course to course].