

Research Methods in Psycholinguistics

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This course imparts knowledge of underlying principles of experimental design, methodology, and quantitative analysis essential for good practice in psycholinguistic research. It will survey a range of methods, such as questionnaires, self-paced reading, and eye-tracking, currently in use in empirical research on language comprehension. The course includes three modules on (1) introductory concepts and topics in experimental psycholinguistics, (2) offline methods that collect grammaticality judgments, accuracy, and preferences, (3) online methods based on reaction times, and (3) eye-tracking methods that measure eye movements in reading and in spoken language comprehension. Module 4 will cover software and programs typically used to collect behavioral data in psycholinguistics (chronometry program such as DMX and Linger, and web-based interfaces, such as Amazon's Mechanical Turk and SurveyMonkey) and repositories of free materials, such as images. Module 5 will focus on extensions of experimental psycholinguistics to special populations such as children, bilingual speakers, and aphasic patients. The use of technology to perform research-related tasks will be emphasized, though no background knowledge in any particular software is required.