UCONN | COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

COMMITTEE ON CURRICULA AND COURSES

Proposal to Add a New Graduate Course

Last revised: September 24, 2013

1. Date: December 2013
2. Department requesting this course: Psychology
3. Semester and year in which course will be first offered: Spring 2016

Final Catalog Listing

Assemble this after you have completed the components below. This listing should not contain any information that is not listed below!

PSYC 5445. Neurobiology of Language: Typical and Atypical Cognition and Language Development
3 credits. Seminar. Open to graduate students in Psychology, LING, SLHS; others with consent of instructor.

Survey of current research on language acquisition in developmentally delayed/atypical populations, including but not restricted to Autism, Williams Syndrome, Down Syndrome, and Specific Language Impairment. Examination of what the language delays and deficits reveal about each disorder, the processes of language acquisition, the representation and organization of language, and the biology/neuropsychology/genetics of language.

Items Included in Catalog Listing

Obligatory Items

1. Abbreviation for Department, Program or Subject Area: PSYC
2. Course Number: 5445
3. Course Title: Neurobiology of Language: Typical and Atypical Cognition and Language Development
4. Number of Credits (use digits, "3" not "three"): 3
5. Course Description (second paragraph of catalog entry):

Survey of current research on language acquisition in developmentally delayed/atypical populations, including but not restricted to Autism, Williams Syndrome, Down Syndrome, and Specific Language Impairment. Examination of what the language delays & deficits reveal about each disorder, the processes of language acquisition, the representation and organization of language, and the biology/neuropsychology/genetics of language.

6. Course Type, if appropriate:
__Lecture ___ Laboratory _X_ Seminar ___ Practicum

Optional Items
7. Prerequisites, if applicable:
8. Recommended Preparation, if applicable: PSYC 5440 or COGS 5110 or COGS 5120 or COGS 5130 or COGS 5150 or SLHS 5348 or LING 5110.
Note: A total of 5 new COGS courses is anticipated.
9. Consent of Instructor, if applicable: Consent required only for undergraduates, or graduate students from departments other than LING, SLHS, or PSYC.
10. Exclusions, if applicable:
11. Repetition for credit, if applicable:
12. S/U grading:

Justification

1. Reasons for adding this course: No other graduate-level course exists that focuses on language development in both typically developing children and those with developmental or acquired language disorders. Unlike SLHS 5348, which focuses on assessment and intervention of language disorders, the current course targets the underlying genetic, neurobiological, linguistic, cognitive, social, and motor bases of these disorders, and what these reveal about the nature of language and the processes of language acquisition. This course has been taught as Special Topics in Developmental Psychology and we have now decided to convert it to a regular course.

2. Academic merit: The course will survey current research concerning the processes and products of language development in children with developmental or acquired language disorders, including but not restricted to autism, Williams Syndrome, Down Syndrome, and Specific Language Impairment. Students will become familiar with the language delays & deficits of each disorder, with both established and innovative behavioral and neuroimaging methods for investigating the processes and organization of language in children with these disorders, and with the complexities of their (epi)genetics.

3. Overlapping courses: SLHS 5348 checked but deemed non-overlapping (see Justification). None in PSYC or LING
4. Number of students expected: 20
5. Number and size of sections: 1 section
6. Effects on other departments:

7. Staffing: Naigles, Eigsti (co-taught)
8. Dates approved by
   Department Curriculum Committee:
      Psychology, 12/4/13
   Department Faculty:
9. Name, Phone Number, and e-mail address of principal contact person: Letitia Naigles, 6-4942, Letitia.naigles@uconn.edu

Syllabus

A syllabus for the new course must be attached to your submission email.

Additional Approval

New graduate courses must also be approved by the Graduate Faculty Council.