WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES
BASIC COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE NUMBER: PSY 363

COURSE TITLE: Psychology of Language

This course is a study in language behavior. Normative, cognitive, emotional, and relational aspects of language behavior are examined. Emphasis is placed on aspects of language learning, production, and comprehension. Individual, social, and gender-based differences are explored, as well as surface and deep structures of language and the psychological aspects of miscommunication.

As Psychology professionals, we recognize that reactions to trauma come in many forms. The content of this course, and discussions about trauma from different perspectives, may bring about unexpected and unsettling reactions. Responses to trauma are often strategies that survivors have developed to keep themselves safe, and therefore really reflect strength and resiliency. Recognizing how trauma impacts anyone is an important part of skill building for creating trauma-informed services and systems. Please do not hesitate to contact the instructor at any time during the course if you would like to discuss, privately, your reactions to the content we are reviewing and/or the discussions we are having.

MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS:

GOAL A: Understand language as a subject to be studied and the various sub-areas which together comprise the psychology of language.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

A-1 Describe and explain the four primary domains of language study (phonology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics).

A-2 Explain the history of psycholinguistics.

A-3 Explain the relationship between signed and spoken languages.

A-4 Explain the cognitive approach to language processes (e.g., the interrelationships among language, memory and cognition).

A-5 Discuss the relationship between basic psycholinguistic processes (comprehension, production, and acquisition of language), biology, and culture.

GOAL B: Understand the process of language acquisition.
**Learning Outcomes:** The student will:

B-1 Explain the process of language acquisition in early acquisition.

B-2 Explain the process of language acquisition in later acquisition.

B-3 Explain theories of language acquisition, e.g., nativist-linguist theory, behaviorist learning theory, social interaction theory, connectionist theory, and cognitive theory

B-4 Explain bilingualism and second-language acquisition

**GOAL C:** Understand the nature of scientific inquiry in asking questions about language, its nature and how language is used.

**Learning Outcomes:** The student will:

C-1 Demonstrate understanding of the types of research methods used in the psychology of language.

C-2 Identify cutting edge research areas in the psychology of language

**GOAL D:** Use appropriate written and oral communication skills

**Learning Outcomes:** The student will:

D-1 Communicate information orally in a logical and grammatical manner

D-2 Present written information using standard APA style