What is this course about?

From the course guide... Introduction to the psychological processes for producing and understanding speech, the means by which they arise in the child, and bases in the brain.

This course is not about telepathy.

We will cover:

1. How language is organized in the mind ('competence')
   - phonology / morphology
   - syntax
   - semantics

2. The biological basis for language
   - brain imaging, language in animals

3. Models of how we produce speech

4. Models of how we comprehend speech (most of our time spent here)

5. Models of how we acquire language as infants
Why study this?

Objective: language is an evolution that very suddenly changed the world –
- enormous colonies created, landscape transformed to support them
- what happened? in last $\sim 100,000$ years, *one animal evolved language*
- what is this advance in mechanical/neurological terms? can other animals learn it? can machines?

Subjective: language is important because *that evolution happened to us!*
- we seem to be conscious processes that think sentences; are we really? what kind of thing are we? how do we work?
- people live long enough to suffer from dementia, can’t communicate. can we help them? can we save ourselves?
Course Prerequisites

From the course guide...

1. You should be:
   ▶ in the honors program, or
   ▶ permission of instructor (if you have similar standing somewhere else).

2. You should have taken one of the following courses:
   ▶ Ling 201/2000 (Intro to Language in the Humanities), or
   ▶ Ling 202 (Intro to Language in the Social Sciences, which hasn’t existed for 6 years, so you probably didn’t take it), or
   ▶ Ling 601/4000 (Intro to Linguistics for graduate students), or
   ▶ Psych 100/1100 (General Psychology), or
   ▶ permission of instructor (if you took something similar somewhere else).

3. You should not have taken Psych 371 (same course, cross-listed).

This is a GEC ‘Social Sciences: Individuals and Groups’ course.

Status of wait list?
What will you need to do?

There are four course requirements:

1. Weekly readings, each about 20 pages.

2. Weekly postings about readings on electronic forum: 25% of grade
   - comments
   - questions
   - answers
   - speculation
   - due each Monday at midnight

   Why? I will use these to initiate discussion in lecture.

3. Two midterm exams: 70% of grade
   - in class
   - short answer
   - not cumulative
   - there will be a study guide

4. Linguistics Outside the Classroom program requirement: 5% of grade
   - volunteer 2x to attend either colloquium talk or linguistics experiment
Course materials / infrastructure


Status of textbook?

**Web site:** http://www.ling.osu.edu/~schuler/courses/3701H
There’s a calendar, with links to all supplementary readings.
It’s not on Carmen, so there’s no login (but library e-holdings may need it).

**Electronic forum:** on Carmen — http://carmen.osu.edu

Can everyone view it?

**Me:** — email: schuler at ling.osu.edu
Office hours as posted on syllabus (usually right after class),
or by appointment (email me).

Questions about administrative stuff?

**Students:** who are you and why are you here?
For next time... 

Read:

- Traxler ch 1, pp. 1–14, until ‘language origins’