

Spring 2006  
U658 Psycholinguistics and Sign Language  
Harlan Lane ([Lane@neu.edu](mailto:Lane@neu.edu)) 125 NI 373-3076

Tuesdays, 1:35 – 5:05 205 Shillman

Topic	Reading Assignment
1 Introduction to Deaf language, society and culture	Ch. 1
2 Structure of American Sign Language; linguistic universals & modality effects	Ch. 2
3 Talking about space in a spatial language	Ch. 3
4 Quiz; Psycholinguistic studies of sign perception, processing & production	Ch. 4
5 Sign Language acquisition	Ch. 5
6 The Critical Period Hypothesis and the effects of late language acquisition	Ch. 6
7 Memory for sign language & the structure of working memory	Ch. 7
8 Quiz; The impact of sign language use on visual-spatial cognition	Ch. 8
9 Sign language and the brain	Ch. 9
Student papers**	

Text for the course: Emmorey, K. Language, cognition and the brain. Insights from sign language research. Mahwah NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates. 2002.

Course objectives: To familiarize students with the theory, methods and findings of research on sign language and its impact on our understanding of language and thought. To assist students in developing the skills involved in formulating an experimental question, devising methods to address it, and in interpreting results in oral and written presentation.

\*\* Each student will prepare and deliver a paper reviewing some segment of the literature, proposing an experimental question, describing methods to be used, and interpreting hypothetical results.

Ground rules: 1. The grading is based on two quizzes, an oral presentation, a short paper (each 12 points) and a final (52). 2. There are no makeup exams and students will lose points for missing quizzes unless they have a medical excuse from their doctor or the Health Service.

1	Jan	10	
2		17	
3		24	
4		31	
5	Feb	7	
6		14	
7		21	
8		28	
	March	4-12	Spring Break
9		14	
10		21	
11		28	
12	April	4	
13		11	
14		18	
		21-28	Exams, grades due May 1