Preliminary Syllabus
PSYC G4232y: Production and Perception of Language, Spring, 2011

I. Bulletin Description
II. A full description of the content of the course
III. The rationale for giving the course
IV. The reading list and weekly syllabus
V. Course requirements

I. Bulletin Description
PSYC G4232y
Term: Spring 2011
Faculty: Robert Remez
Title: Production and Perception of Language
Activity: Seminar
Pts: 4
Approval: Instructor
Days/Time: Tuesday, 6:10-8:00 pm
Bldg/Rm: 405 Schermerhorn Hall
Prerequisites: Two courses in Psychology and instructor's permission
Review of theories and current research on the production and perception of language.
Topics include phonetic expression, motoric and perceptual organization, speech codes and memory codes, spoken word recognition, phrase formation, and the effects of context in perception and production.

II. A full description of the content of the course
The course is organized into four components. First, students will consider basic descriptive literature to establish the parallel structural properties of the production and the perception of language. Then, perceptual literature will be examined for evidence of natural constraints that limit or govern linguistic exchanges. Then, the plausibility of theory will be tested by the challenges posed by the conditions of ordinary spoken conversations. The last component addresses the problems and prospects of research using animal models.

III. The rationale for giving the course
Within the study of cognitive psychology, recent advances in the accounts of spoken communication have exhibited wide influence. This seminar introduces classic and contemporary aspects of this technical literature, and is suitable for advanced undergraduates in the majors (Psychology, Neuroscience & Behavior) and for graduate students pursuing the Masters and the Doctorate.

For undergraduates who are majoring in Psychology or in Neuroscience & Behavior, and for students participating in the Postbac Psychology Program, PSYC G4232 will fulfill these degree requirements:
• For the Psychology major or concentration and the Psychology Postbac program, it will satisfy the Group I (perception and cognition) requirement.
• For the Neuroscience & Behavior joint major, it will fulfill the 5th Psychology requirement—one advanced psychology seminar from a list approved by the Department.
• For the psychology Minor in Engineering, it will count toward the group requirement: “Any four courses from, at a minimum, two of the three groups.”
• PSYC G4232 will also satisfy the Senior Seminar requirement of the Barnard Psychology Major.

For the science requirements of the College and General Studies, PSYC G4232 will qualify as one term of the requirement, provided that the student obtains permission of the
instructor and has completed the necessary prerequisites. We anticipate that this course will rarely be used to fulfill this requirement.

At the graduate level PSYC G4232 will apply toward the “two seriously graded advanced seminars” requirement of the Psychology Ph. D. Program.

IV. The reading list and weekly syllabus

**Week 1:** January 18, 2011: General Overview and Organizational Meeting.

**Week 2:** January 25, 2011: Articulatory and Acoustic Basis of Segmental Contrasts: Consonants.

**Week 3:** February 1, 2011: Articulatory and Acoustic Basis of Segmental Contrasts: Vowels.

**Week 4:** February 8, 2011: A General Account of Phonetic Sensitivity.

**Week 5:** February 15, 2011: Perception in the Psychophysics Laboratory.

**Week 6:** February 22, 2011: Perception as Information Processing.


**Week 8:** March 8, 2011: Speech Perception on the Corner, Part 2: Pragmatic Context.

**Week 9:** March 22, 2011: Speech Perception on the Corner, Part III. Integrative Perceptual Acts

**Week 10:** March 29, 2011: Perceptual Organization of Speech.

**Week 11:** April 5, 2011: Multimodal Speech Perception, Part 1.

**Week 12:** April 12, 2011: Multimodal Speech Perception, Part 2.

**Week 13:** April 19, 2011: Concurrent Identification of Words and Talkers.


**Week 14: April 26, 2011: Animal Models of Perception and Production.**


**V. Course requirements**

Each week, a pair of students will be designated as the leader and the rapporteur of the discussion of an assigned reading. The leader will present a summary and a critique of the reading, and propose questions to guide the discussion by the seminar. The discussion will be chronicled by the rapporteur, and posted on the website of the seminar as a record of our intellectual work. Each student will also prepare an original paper appraising an empirical project in the light of the scientific themes of the seminar. The topic of the paper may be freely chosen from the technical literature on the perception and production of language. A student’s grade in the course will be based on participation as leader of the discussion, as rapporteur, as discussant within the seminar, and on the final paper project. The course grade will indicate the student’s achievement as discussion leader (30%), as rapporteur (20%), as a participant in weekly discussions (20%) and as the author of the paper project (30%).