Description:
This assignment will give you an opportunity to think about language from the perspective of the empirical approach. You will develop a research question concerning how humans acquire, comprehend, or produce language that could be addressed using the methods of psycholinguistics. The topic may be any topic related to the psychology of language. The purpose of this assignment is to (a) research one area of psycholinguistics in detail, (b) help you apply your knowledge of psycholinguistics to one very specific question, (c) help you understand at least one method for collecting psycholinguistic data, and (d) help you link one very specific question to larger questions in the field.

Tasks:
1. Topic choice – due Tuesday, March 3
   This is a short description of your project and should include: the general area to be studied, one or two possible questions that you'd like to ask (you will choose only one for your final paper) and one or two possible ways you could use to collect data to address those questions that you would consider using in your proposal.

   Good sources to get ideas for papers:
   • Questions that you have as you read the chapters that aren't answered
   • Questions that are raised based on classmates’ presentations of language “finds”
   • Questions that you have based on your online research for the “finds” assignment
   • Extending studies described in the book or in class to new populations or new situations
   • Browsing through journals in the library. A list of language-related journals can be found at http://www.psyc.memphis.edu:88/POL/POL.htm#journals. You can also try the more general ones that often have language-related articles (e.g., Trends in Cognitive Science, Current Directions in Psychological Science, Scientific American Mind, Science)

   If second language learners are part of the proposal, the proposal must focus on a topic related to how second language learners process or perceive language. The topic may not be related to how best to teach second languages.

2. Abstract – due Tuesday, March 31
   This is a 1-2 page summary of your project and must be typed. It should include:
   a. The general area to be studied and why it's important to the field of psycholinguistics.
   b. The one specific question you are pursuing.
   c. The methodology you will use in your proposal
   d. The kind of stimuli you would propose to use.
   e. A list of at least 3 journal articles that you've found about your topic, and a two - four sentence summary of each article.

3. The final proposal – due Tuesday, May 12 (Section 800) or Thursday, May 14 (Section 810)
   A handout will be given that covers organization and information required. The proposal should be as long as it takes to adequately cover all of the required points.