

Laboratory Linguistics/Testing theories in the lab

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Experiments on agreement

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Syllabus

1.1 Basic Coordinates

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1.4 Requirements

- You can install the Slack app on your computer or on your phone. This will make it much easier to keep track

This is a class with a lot of group work

- In this class, you can work your experiment in a group of ideally ~~more than 4 people~~
- The homeworks, however, have to be done individually, except the parts explicitly marked as group-work, which you can do with your group

~~How will you know where you've done everything you need to do for the class?~~

- Part of the point of the homeworks is that they function like a checklist on your progress.
- So as much as possible, I will list everything you need to do for the class in one of the homeworks, and as long as you finish the homework on time you should be up to speed with the class work.
- Readings will also be assigned as part of the homework, but I may assign one or two readings on top of the homeworks if necessary

~~Readings~~ : We will not use a textbook in this class. There will some readings (to be announced), and they will all be posted on the class ~~Slack~~ .

~~Software~~

- You'll have to install the software we'll be using (see HW1) on your own computer. Everything we will use is free. You can install the software now, but you should have it installed when the first homework is due.

~~Software Installation~~ ~~Bigtoys~~

- We will use Dropbox to share files. I tried in the past to use McGill's Onedrive, but unfortunately it's not compatible with the experimental scripts that we will be using
- Your project folder will likely not be very big, if you have about 200MB of space in your Dropbox account, that should be enough (I think 2GB are free)
- It will be much easier for you to sync files with your team members and with me if you install the Dropbox app on your computer, and have your project folder sync with the version in the cloud
- If your project involves sound data, you will need the speech analysis program Praat (<http://praat.org>). Some basic scripts for annotation will be provided. However, you are expected to familiarize yourself with the program above and beyond what we will discuss in class, and figure out any problems you run into with the help function provided in the program, and online resources (such as the praat online forum) (available at praat.org)

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- For data wrangling, figures, stats, and final paper: follow the instructions in HW1 to install R and RStudio, and additional packages

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1.6 Ethics certificate

- Everyone at McGill involved in research studies has to complete an Ethics training. Since we'll do (virtual!) experiments with real people, you'll have to take this training too.
- The upside that you only have to take this once, so if after this class you want to work on experiments or in a lab, you'll already have taken it!
- To participate in this class, you will have to complete the TCPS 2 Core Tutorial. ~~Please use your McGill email address when you take the ethics class~~ —this way the Research Ethics Board at McGill can check online that you have done it. You will have to submit your ethics certificate as part of homework 2.
- Note that taking that training and getting the certificate will take a few

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~~Land Acknowledgment~~ McGill University is on land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples, including the Haudenosaunee.

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Tentative Schedule

- Jan 8/9: Introduction: Agreement puzzles and an example experiment
- Jan 15/17: Testing hypotheses experimentally (Homework 1 out)
- Jan 22/24: Experiment design; choosing a topic; finding a work group
(Homework 1 due Jan 22 ; Homework 2 out)
- Jan 29/31: Choosing a topic/Thinking about your research question(s)

