LING5029

The Psychology of Language

Term 2, 2022

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Sithembinkosi Dube	s.dube@unsw.edu.au	By appointment via e-mail	Morven Brown	By appointment via e-mail

Lecturers

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Sithembinkosi Dube	s.dube@unsw.edu.au	By appointment via e-mail	Morven Brown	By appointment via e-mail

School Contact Information

School of Humanities & Languages

Location: School Office, Morven Brown Building, Level 2, 258

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm

Tel: 02 9348 0406

Email: hal@unsw.edu.au

Acknowledgement of Country

UNSW Arts, Design and Architecture Kensington and Paddington campuses are built on Aboriginal Lands. We pay our respects to the Bidjigal and Gadigal peoples who are the Custodians of these lands. We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the First Australians, whose lands, winds and waters we all now share, and pay respect to their unique values, and their continuing and enduring cultures which deepen and enrich the life of our nation and communities.
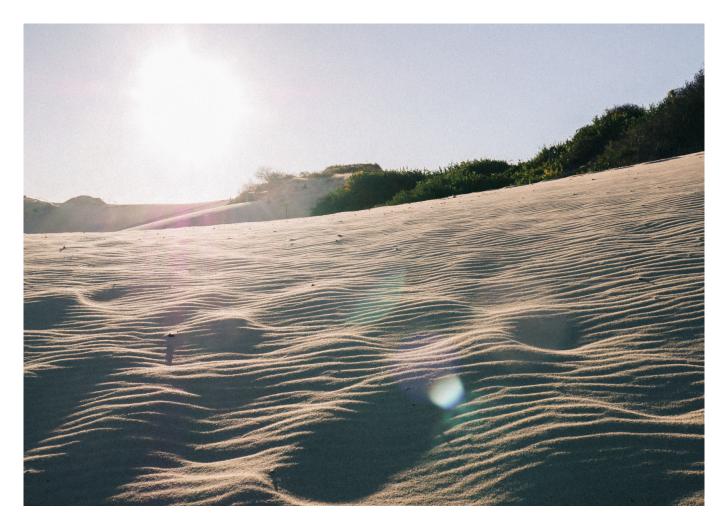
Image courtesy of the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous UNSW's Indigenous strategy

Course Details

Units of Credit 6

Summary of the Course

The psychology of language, or psycholinguistics, is the scientific study of the relationship between language and psychology. The more you understand about the psychology of language, how it is acquired, and how it is processed, the more you understand about yourself and the people and world around you. In this course, you will learn how we acquire, develop, and use language in general and specialised contexts. By developing an understanding of contemporary research methods, including language performance tasks, eye tracking and brain imaging, you will identify the relationship between language, cognition, and behaviour. You will evaluate the application of various fundamental approaches in psycholinguistics to identify how they account for the psychological processes underlying the production, processing and representation of human language. You will also explore atypical language development, language impairment, and clinical contexts.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. describe and explain the most crucial issues involved in the interaction between the brain and language in relation to how languages are acquired, processed and stored.
2. apply general principles of linguistics to language acquisition, language comprehension and production, and to apposite neurological processes involving language.
3. explicate the basic research on brain damage and language impairment, breakdown and loss, and language and thought.
4. critically examine and evaluate modern approaches in psycholinguistics, in terms of their power to account for the psychological processes underlying the production, processing and representation of human language.

Teaching Strategies

This course uses an interactive seminar format to introduce the basic conceptual distinctions and present the fundamental research where the lecturer will endeavour to make original technical research more manageable, ensuring the basic conceptual distinctions are precisely presented in order to be understood.

You will participate to small group activities and discussion of problems to pool individual knowledge and drive the advancement of further knowledge.

Assessment

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Course Learning Outcomes Assessed
1. Problem set	25%	14/06/2022 04:00 PM	1, 4
2. In-class test	25%	Not Applicable	1, 2, 3
3. Presentation	10%	As rostered	1, 3
4. Essay	40%	08/08/2022 04:00 PM	1, 3, 4

Assessment 1: Problem set

Assessment length: 25 short answer questions
Due date: 14/06/2022 04:00 PM

Students will be required to analyse some case studies (3-5 problems) in relation to particular psycholinguistic issues. They will address these issues by answering very specific questions designed to focus on major theoretical proposals. Written feedback.

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Assessment 2: In-class test

Assessment length: 40 Multiple Choice Questions
Submission notes: Moodle Quiz

Students will be given a 1.5 hour test in class that covers topics covered in class. Written feedback.

Assessment 3: Presentation

Start date: As rostered
Assessment length: 10 minutes
Submission notes: Presentation as rostered and students must submit their PowerPoint slides before their scheduled presentation
Due date: As rostered

10-15 minutes. Students will be assigned a presentation on a specific course topic.

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Assessment 4: Essay

Assessment length: Approximately 2,500 words
Due date: 08/08/2022 04:00 PM

This is the final assessment. 2500 words. Written feedback. This is the final assessment for attendance purposes.

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 30 May - 3 June	Lecture	Course introduction The historical context of the psychological study of language The scientific method in the study of language
	Tutorial	• Structured discussion of lecture content and required reading
	Reading	• Reading sequence 1
Week 2: 6 June - 10 June	Lecture	The neurobiological basis of language acquisition and processing.
	Tutorial	• Structured discussion of lecture content and required reading
	Reading	• Reading sequence 2
Week 3: 13 June - 17 June	Lecture	Cognitive foundations of language development.
	Tutorial	• Structured discussion of lecture content and required reading
	Reading	• Reading sequence 3
	Assessment	Problem set
Week 4: 20 June - 24 June	Lecture	Phonological development
	Tutorial	• Structured discussion of lecture content and required reading
	Reading	• Reading sequence 4
Week 5: 27 June - 1 July	Lecture	Lexical development
	Tutorial	• Structured discussion of lecture content and required reading

	Reading	• Reading sequence 5
Week 6: 4 July - 8 July	Topic	• Week 6 is Flex Week with no scheduled activities for this course • Please use this time to consolidate and reflect upon the course so far • You may wish to use this time to keep on track with the readings and assessments and to plan ahead for the coming contents and assessments
Week 7: 11 July - 15 July	Lecture	Syntactic and pragmatic development
	Tutorial	• Structured discussion of lecture content and required reading
	Reading	• Reading sequence 7
Week 8: 18 July - 22 July	Lecture	Atypical language development and language disorders
	Tutorial	• Structured discussion of lecture content and required reading
	Reading	• Reading sequence 8
Week 9: 25 July - 29 July	Lecture	Language and our perception of space and time
	Tutorial	• Structured discussion of lecture content and required reading
	Reading	• Reading sequence 9
Week 10: 1 August - 5 August	Lecture	Language, memory, and emotion
	Tutorial	• Structured discussion of lecture content and required reading
	Reading	• Reading sequence 10

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Please refer to the Reading Sequences link on Moodle for details of each week's required reading. All readings are available via Moodle and the UNSW Library.

- Hoff, E. (2014). Language development (5th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Cengage Learning.
- Harley, T. (2014). The psychology of language: From data to theory (4th ed.). Hove, UK: Psychology Press.

Recommended Resources

- Gaskell, M. G. (2007). The Oxford handbook of psycholinguistics. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.
- Further recommended resources are available on Moodle.

Course Evaluation and Development

Student feedback is gathered using UNSW's myExperience system in addition to on-going feedback throughout the course and via in-class activities and assessments. All forms of student feedback will be acted upon to improve the student learning experience in the course and its future iterations.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au . Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

Copying: Using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This includes copying materials, ideas or concepts from a book, article, report or other written document, presentation, composition, artwork, design, drawing, circuitry, computer program or software, website, internet, other electronic resource, or another person's assignment without appropriate acknowledgement.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original information, structure and/or progression of ideas of the original without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

Collusion: Working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student for the purpose of them plagiarising, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): Submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices

The UNSW Academic Skills support offers resources and individual consultations. Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study. One of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study. Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time
- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Academic Information

Due to evolving advice by NSW Health, students must check for updated information regarding online learning for all Arts, Design and Architecture courses this term (via Moodle or course information provided.)

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines

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