

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department:	Psychology
Programme:	Psychology
FHEQ Level:	5
Course Title:	Mind and Language
Course Code:	PSY 5400
Total Hours:	120
Timetabled Hours:	45
Guided Learning Hours:	0
Independent Learning Hours:	75
Credits:	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

Course Description:

This is an interdisciplinary course that introduces students to current research and debates in the areas of language and communication. Whereas similar courses have focused on the relationship between language and mind, this course aims to address a relatively neglected aspect of psychology: the relationship between language and self. Beginning with an overview of the biological basis of language and a review of the developmental research on language acquisition, the course will also examine the relation between gesture and language. Clinical models of communication will be covered, focusing on pathological forms of communication such as schizophrenia and autism. The second part of the course will examine structuralist and poststructuralist approaches to language, linguistic interpretations of psychoanalytic theory, narrative communication and narrative identity, as well as theories of reading and writing.

Prerequisites:

PSY 4210

Aims and Objectives:

The course provides students with an awareness of the nature and scope of one of the most important areas of research in psychology. It critically examines issues raised by multiple perspectives to the study of language: empiricism, nativism, social behaviorism, phenomenology, structuralism, post-structuralism and the narrative paradigm. Furthermore, it explores the interrelationships between language, thought, self and culture. Students will become familiar with the application of key concepts in communication studies to various areas of psychological research; as well as examining

the philosophical foundations of psychological research in the area of language and communication studies.

Programme Outcomes:

Psychology: 5Ai, 5Ci, 5Di, 5Dii

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and located at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

- Develop an understanding of psychological approaches to the study of language and communication
- Develop an understanding of the link between psychological processes and language
- Develop an appreciation of the complex link between language and self
- Gain insight into the ideological construction of (Barthesian) myths
- Appreciate the development and influence of structuralist and poststructuralist models of mind and language.

Indicative Content

Language as a module and as an artifact,
Chomsky and Skinner
Developmental milestones, critical periods
Lateralization, localization, plasticity
True language and proto-
languages Lev Vygotsky
G. H. Mead
Saussure, structuralism & post-structuralism
Pragmatics of human communication

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

Teaching Methodology:

The course material will be covered in the following ways:

- I. Formal lectures
- II. Discussions of key ideas
- III. Recommended Readings & Websites
- IV. Films

Bibliography:

See syllabus for complete reading list

Indicative Text(s):

Aitchison, J. (1989). *The Articulate Mammal: An Introduction to Psycholinguistics*. London: Routledge

Mead, G. H. (1967). *Mind, Self, Society: From the Standpoint of a Social Behaviorist*. Chicago, Ill: University of Chicago Press.

Pinker, S. (1994). *The Language Instinct*. Penguin: Harmondsworth, Middlesex.

Vygotsky, L. (1989). *Thought and Language*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Watzlawick, P., Beavin, J.H. and Jackson, D. (1967). *Pragmatics of Human Communication: A Study of Interactional Patterns, Pathologies and Paradoxes*. New York: Norton.

Journals

Modern Language

Journal Brain and

Language Journal of

Child Language

Language

Journal of Memory and Language

Studies in Second Language

Acquisition

Web Sites

<http://www.apa.org>

<http://www.alz.org>

<http://wals.info>

Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registr
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Revision – annual update	May 2023	
Total Hours Updated	April 2024	
