COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department: Humanities & Social Sciences

Programme: Psychology

***FHEQ* Level:** 5

Course Title: Mind and Language

Course Code: PSYC 5103

Total Hours: 160 (Lev 3-5) (4 US Credit)
Timetabled Hours: 45
Guided Learning Hours: 15
Independent Learning Hours: 100

Credit 16 UK CATS credits
8 ECTS credits
4 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:
40 credits

Aims and Objectives:

- To critically engage students with issues raised in the psychological study of language and communication.
- To help students explore the interrelationships between language, thought, self and culture from a range of different perspectives.
- To provide a background for eventual careers in fields (including work in government, international organisations, business and the media) which require articulate, clear-thinking individuals with a grasp of clinical psychology.
- To provide a framework to assist concerned citizens to think critically about issues that are of increasing importance in the 21st century.
- To promote critical engagement with a wide range of literature, and the development of both a succinct writing style, and the ability to present complex arguments orally.

Programme Outcomes:
5AII; 5BI; 5CI; 5DII

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by Registry and found at:
https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/

Learning Outcomes:
By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a critical engagement with psychological approaches and models used in the study of language and communication.
- Demonstrate systematic understanding of the links between language and psychological processes.
- Demonstrate the ability to formulate and communicate arguments cogently, retrieve and generate information, and select appropriate criteria to evaluate sources and/or data.
- Demonstrate engagement with practical applications of the study of language and communication.

Indicative Content:

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

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:
This course will be delivered face to face through a combination of lectures and interactive sessions. In addition to classroom activities, there are guided learning elements that are tutor led and arranged through Blackboard. These activities can be asynchronous online sessions, flipped classrooms, set readings with discussion boards or set guest lectures for example. Set activities are monitored by the instructor to ascertain student engagement. Students are encouraged to prepare for class and to play an active part, to raise questions, following-up ideas and interact with a wide range of provided material.

Indicative Text(s):
Aitchison, J. (2011) *The Articulate Mammal: An Introduction to Psycholinguistics*. Routledge.

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

Traxler, M. J. (2023) *Introduction to Psycholinguistics: Understanding Language Science*. 2nd ed. Wiley-Blackwell.

See syllabus for complete reading list.

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Registry Services
First edition	November 2024	