

PS210-15 Language and Cognition

20/21

Department

Psychology

Level

Undergraduate Level 2

Module leader

Sotaro Kita

Credit value

15

Module duration

12 weeks

Assessment

40% coursework, 60% exam

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

The module will investigate the biological mechanisms and cognitive processes of human language

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

The aims of the module are to investigate the biological mechanisms and cognitive processes of human language, as well as the relationship between language and cognition more generally. The module will explore key findings from the fields of psycholinguistics and cognitive science

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Introduction

Animal communication

Language acquisition

Interactive communication
Embodied cognition
Speech sounds
Word meaning and concepts
Word recognition and language understanding
Judgment, decision making and reasoning
Revision for the exam

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- consider language, communication, spatial problem solving, concepts and categorisation in terms of biological mechanisms and cognitive processes
- understand and explain key findings from the fields of psycholinguistics and cognitive science
- discuss key problems in explaining language and cognition
- describe methods of research on language and cognition
- critically evaluate theories of language and cognition and their supporting evidence

Indicative reading list

-Boroditsky, L. (2011). How language shapes thought. *Scientific American*, 304, 62-65.

-Casasanto, D. (2009). Embodiment of Abstract Concepts: Good and Bad in Right- and Left-Handers.

Journal of Experimental Psychology: General, 138(3), 351-367. doi: 10.1037/a0015854

-Keysar, B., Barr, D. J., Balin, J. A., & Brauner, J. S. (2000). Taking Perspective in Conversation: The Role of Mutual Knowledge in Comprehension. *Psychological Science*, 11(1), 32-38. doi: 10.1111/14679280.00211

- Loftus, E. F., & Palmer, J. C. (1974). Reconstruction of automobile destruction: An example of the interaction between language and memory. *Journal of Verbal Learning and Verbal Behavior*, 13, 585-589.

Subject specific skills

use a range of established techniques to initiate and undertake critical analysis of information, and to propose solutions to problems arising from that analysis

consider language, communication, problem solving, concepts and categorisation in terms of cognitive processes

Transferable skills

effectively communicate information, arguments and analysis

familiarity with collecting and organising information

critical evaluation

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	12 sessions of 2 hours (16%)
Seminars	4 sessions of 1 hour (3%)
Practical classes	1 session of 2 hours (1%)
Private study	120 hours (80%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

120 hours guided student study

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

Assessment group D3

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Mini Essay	20%		Yes (extension)
Essay			
Short answer questions	20%		Yes (extension)
Short answer questions			
Exam	60%		No

- Answerbook Green (8 page)

Feedback on assessment

Academic guidance form for assessed work; annotated worksheet via Tabula

Availability

Post-requisite modules

If you pass this module, you can take:

- PS351-15 Psychology and the Law

Courses

This module is Core for:

- Year 2 of UPHA-VL78 BA in Philosophy with Psychology
- Year 2 of UPSA-C804 Undergraduate Psychology with Education Studies
- Year 2 of UPSA-C802 Undergraduate Psychology with Linguistics

This module is Core optional for:

- Year 2 of UPSA-C800 Undergraduate Psychology
- Year 2 of UIPA-C8L8 Undergraduate Psychology and Global Sustainable Development

This module is Option list D for:

- Year 4 of ULNA-R9Q2 Undergraduate Modern Languages with Linguistics