

# PS210-15 Language and Cognition

**23/24**

**Department**

Psychology

**Level**

Undergraduate Level 2

**Module leader**

James Adelman

**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	(0%)
Private study	121 hours (81%)
Assessment	1 hour (1%)
Total	150 hours

## Private study description

121 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 D5

	Weighting	Study time
Multiple choice quiz	40%	1 hour

MCQ Moodle quiz that covers the material in the first 5-6 lectures. The questions will be of varying complexity. Some will involve applying knowledge to novel situations (e. g. choosing between possible stimuli for a particular type of investigation), some will ask for the interpretation of data from graphs, there will be conceptual questions and questions that require deeper insight into the theoretical links. The assessment will take an hour, on average 1.5 minutes for each question.

The learning outcomes are the application of knowledge (both theoretical and practical) to novel situations and synthesising knowledge from the lectures covered by the assessment.

Online Examination	60%
~Platforms - AEP	

---

## Weighting

## Study time

- Online examination: No Answerbook required

## Feedback on assessment

Group feedback document describing typical issues on test and exam.

[Past exam papers for PS210](#)

---

## 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:

- UPHA-L1CA Undergraduate Economics, Psychology and Philosophy
  - Year 2 of L1CA Economics, Psychology and Philosophy
  - Year 2 of L1CC Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (Behavioural Economics Pathway)
  - Year 2 of L1CE Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (Philosophy and Psychology Pathway)
- Year 2 of UPSA-C800 Undergraduate Psychology
- Year 2 of UIPA-C8L8 Undergraduate Psychology and Global Sustainable Development

This module is Optional for:

- UPHA-L1CA Undergraduate Economics, Psychology and Philosophy
  - Year 2 of L1CA Economics, Psychology and Philosophy
  - Year 2 of L1CC Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (Behavioural Economics Pathway)
  - Year 2 of L1CD Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (Economics with Philosophy Pathway)
  - Year 2 of L1CE Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (Philosophy and Psychology Pathway)

Pathway)

This module is Option list D for:

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