

Course Title	Psychology of Language <Psycho- and Neurolinguistics>
Instructor	VERDONSCHOT, R. G.
Credit	2 Credits
Course Number	PSY2321

■ Course Objectives

To understand more about how languages are learned, understood and produced from an experimental psychological and a "brain" point of Course view.

■ Course Contents

First of all, you should be aware that this course will be given in ENGLISH. Don't worry, you don't need to have "perfect" English skills but if you really can't understand English at all it will be quite difficult to follow everything. It is okay to ask questions in (simple) Japanese after class if that is comfortable for you, but during class everything will be in English.

This course will consist of a series of lectures which deal with a large variety of topics in the psycho- and neurolinguistics literature.

For instance, possible topics are:

What is language?

Do animals have language?

How do humans learn a language?

How can we study what babies can understand and learn if they can't talk to us?

What happens when we speak more than one language?

How can we understand what someone says even in a very noisy environment?

Hwx xs xt pxssxbxe that yxx oxn rxxd thxs? (or: "How is it possible that you can read this?")

Why do most people not understand the correct English sentence "The old man the boat" immediately.

How can we go so easily from our thoughts to producing words?

Does the brain have specific parts dedicated to language?

How can we study language processes in the brain?

I will keep the lectures quite basic, using simple English and easy examples. The textbook (The Psychology of Language, Fourth Edition by Trevor Harley) will be used as a reference and to deepen your knowledge on the topics which have been discussed in the lectures.

During the lectures I may also talk about studies which have used methods to study the brain such as: fMRI, EEG/ERP or TMS. To make sure that students understand everything, I will also briefly explain what these methods are, how they work, and how they are useful for research.

■ Course Schedule

1. Introduction to the Course
2. Lecture 1 - Topic to be Announced in the Introduction Lecture
3. Lecture 2 - Topic to be Announced in the Introduction Lecture
4. Lecture 3 - Topic to be Announced in the Introduction Lecture
5. Lecture 4 - Topic to be Announced in the Introduction Lecture
6. Lecture 5 - Topic to be Announced in the Introduction Lecture
7. Lecture 6 - Topic to be Announced in the Introduction Lecture
8. Lecture 7 - Topic to be Announced in the Introduction Lecture - Also, in this lecture we will shortly evaluate whether the previous topics (i.e., lectures 1-6) are understood and if there are any questions,
9. Lecture 8 - Topic to be Announced in the Introduction Lecture
10. Lecture 9 - Topic to be Announced in the Introduction Lecture
11. Lecture 10-Topic to be Announced in the Introduction Lecture
12. Lecture 11 - Topic to be Announced in the Introduction Lecture
13. Lecture 12 - Topic to be Announced in the Introduction Lecture
14. Summary/Overview of all previous lectures. Time to ask questions about course and exam.

■ Study Required Outside of Class

Study specific parts of the textbook "The Psychology of Language (Fourth Edition)" by Trevor A. Harley. Occasionally, I may also recommend some papers to read. These can be downloaded from a website which I will show during class.

■ Evaluation

Written Exam (60%); Attendance (40%)

■ Textbooks

1. Trevor A. Harley, *The Psychology of Language* (4th Edition) (Psychology Press 2014) 978-1-84872-089-3

■ Readings

I will occasionally recommend papers to read to deepen students' knowledge.

■ Others (e.g. HP)

I recommend to see all the lectures to get the most out of the course.

I will be available for students after the lecture, or by email/phone to answer any questions they may have.