

SS3723: PSYCHOLOGY OF LANGUAGE

Effective Term

Semester A 2024/25

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Psychology of Language

Subject Code

SS - Social and Behavioural Sciences

Course Number

3723

Academic Unit

Social and Behavioural Sciences (SS)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

SS1101 Basic Psychology or SS2023 Basic Psychology I

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to enable students to (1) explain the concepts of language and reading acquisition and processing; (2) describe the origins and development of linguistic abilities; (3) evaluate and apply theories of language and reading acquisition from a psychological point of view; and (4) compare English and Chinese learning and processing.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	describe important theories and concepts in psychology of language	30	x	x	
2	discuss factors influencing different aspects of language learning and processing	30	x	x	
3	evaluate theories of language and reading acquisition from a psychological point of view	20	x	x	
4	compare and contrast English and Chinese learning and processing	20	x	x	

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lectures	Students will engage in formal lectures to gain basic concepts and theories of language learning and processing.	1, 2, 3, 4	
2	Demonstration	Students will engage in class activities to consolidate their knowledge through laboratory and video demonstration of psychology of language issues.	1, 2, 3, 4	
3	Small group discussion	Students will engage in discussions to critically analyse different issues on language learning and processing.	2, 3, 4	

4	Group project and presentation	Students will engage in an opportunity to learn psychology of language theories and perspectives through hands-on experience. Students will engage in the process of discovering the impacts of psychology of language theories and perspectives on individuals.	2, 3, 4	
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Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)
1	Quizzes	1, 2, 3, 4	60	
2	Group project presentation	1, 2, 3, 4	20	
3	Group written report	1, 2, 3, 4	20	

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Quizzes

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Superior grasp of theories and concepts about psychology of language

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good grasp of theories and concepts about psychology of language

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Evidence of proper understanding about theories and concepts in psychology of language

Marginal (D)

Sufficient familiarity with major theories and concepts in psychology of language to enable the student to progress without repeating the course

Failure (F)

Little familiarity with major theories and concepts in psychology of language

Assessment Task

Group project presentation

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Evidence of extensive knowledge base and sensible ideas of psychology of language

Good (B+, B, B-)

Evidence of good knowledge base and sensible ideas of psychology of language

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Evidence of some knowledge and sensible ideas of psychology of language

Marginal (D)

Sufficient knowledge of psychology of language to enable the student to progress without repeating the course

Failure (F)

Little knowledge of psychology of language

Assessment Task

Group written report

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Evidence of extensive knowledge base and sensible ideas of psychology of language

Good (B+, B, B-)

Evidence of good knowledge base and sensible ideas of psychology of language

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Evidence of some knowledge and sensible ideas of psychology of language

Marginal (D)

Sufficient knowledge of psychology of language to enable the student to progress without repeating the course

Failure (F)

Little knowledge of psychology of language

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Evolutionary origins of language. Nonverbal communication. Main stages in language development. Theories of language development. Bilingualism and second language acquisition. Reading Chinese and English. Word recognition. Sentence processing. Language and reading disorders.

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	Harley, T. A. (2014). The Psychology of Language (4th Ed.). Hove: Psychology Press.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	McBride-Chang, C. (2004). Children's Literacy Development. London: Edward Arnold/Oxford Press.