

The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages
Second Term, 2021-22

Course info

Course Title	LING 5607 Topics in Psycholinguistics
Lecture & Tutorial	Tuesday 18:30 - 21:15
Teaching Venue	Yasumoto Int'l Acad Park LT3

Description

This course presents a survey of psycholinguistic research on language as a cognitive system which interfaces with other subsystems of mind. It introduces psycholinguistics as an empirical science that investigates the mental representation and cognitive processes underlying language comprehension, language production and language learning. It will survey psycholinguistic theories and also their empirical bases. The course will progress across different linguistic levels (words, sentences and discourse) and across different aspects of language use (language comprehension, production and learning). As a complement to courses in theoretical linguistics, this course will also aim to cultivate students' basic understanding of and introductory skills in empirical research design and quantitative analyses. Although no prerequisite is mandatory for this course, students are expected to be familiar with the basic concepts in phonetics, phonology, morphology and syntax.

Content, highlighting fundamental concepts

Topic	Contents/fundamental concepts
Psycholinguistics as an empirical science	Aims of psycholinguistics; empirical research design, psychological methods, hypothesis testing
The mental lexicon	Visual word recognition, spoken word recognition, computational modelling of word recognition, masked priming
Concepts and meanings	Models of concepts, conceptual representations, representation of word meanings
Sentence comprehension	Syntactic parsing, modularity of language understanding, pronoun resolution, prediction, eyetracking
Language production	Conceptualisation, grammatical encoding, lexical access, speech production, speech error, speech disorder
Experimental linguistics	Experimental syntax, structural priming, data collection, hypothesis testing
Language in the brain	Event-related brain potentials, BOLD signals, language localization, language neural network
Language, body and culture	Whorf hypothesis, language and cognition, embodied cognition, cross-language differences

Learning outcomes:

- Students will have a good understanding of the mental processes underlying language production, language comprehension and language learning.
- Students will learn how to integrate psycholinguistic understanding with insights from other linguistic branches and also how to empirically critique concepts and theories from theoretical linguistics.
- Students will be introduced to the relations between language and other domains of cognition (e.g., the real world, the society);

- Students will learn to conduct small-scale empirical research and to analyze simple psycholinguistic data and will develop critical thinking skills.

Learning activities	
- lectures (2 hrs/week)	- readings and revision (2 hr/week)
- interactive tutorials (0.5 hr/week)	- assignments (on average 1hr/week)
- group discussions (~20 mins/week)	

Assessment scheme

Task nature	Description	Weight
Participation	Participation in class activities (presentation, group discussion)	10%
Report 1	An experimental design with supporting literature review	25%
Report 2	A report of data analysis	25%
Exam	In-class exam with essay questions (open book)	40%
		Total: 100%

Course schedule

Week	Date	Lecture
1	11 January	Visual word recognition
2	18 January	Speech perception
3	25 January	Word meaning
4	01 February	Holiday
5	08 February	Sentence comprehension 1
6	15 February	Sentence comprehension 2
7	22 February	Language production 1
8	01 March	Language production 2
9	08 March	Dialogue
10	15 March	Bilingualism
11	22 March	Bilingual mind
12	29 March	Language, experience and mind
13	05 April	Holiday
14	12 April	Language in the brain
15	19 April	Exam

Learning resources for students

Harley, T. A. (2013). *The psychology of language: From data to theory*. Psychology press. (text book).

Carroll, D.W. (2008) *Psychology of Language* (5th edition). Thomson Wadsworth.

Traxler, M., & Gernsbacher, M. A. (Eds.). (2011). *Handbook of psycholinguistics*. Elsevier.

Wixted, J. T., & Thompson-Schill, S. (Eds.). (2018). *Stevens' Handbook of Experimental Psychology and Cognitive Neuroscience III: Language and Thought*. John Wiley & Sons.

Li, P., Tan, L. H., Bates, E., & Tzeng, O. J. (Eds.). (2006). *The Handbook of East Asian Psycholinguistics: Volume 1, Chinese*. Cambridge University Press.

Feedback for evaluation

Students are encouraged to give feedback or comments on course contents and teaching materials throughout the course. Students can contact either the lecturer or tutor directly. See contact details below. Mandatory term-end evaluation for teacher’s reflection will also be conducted.

Teachers' or TA's contact details

	Teacher	TA
Name:	Prof. Zhenguang Cai	ZHAO Xuejiao
Office Location:	Leung Kau Kui Building G5	
Telephone:	3943 7909	
Email:	zhenguangcai@cuhk.edu.hk	
Office Hour:	Tuesday 10 – 11AM, or by appointment	
Website:	http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/lin/people/	

Grade Descriptor

Grade	LING 5607 Topics in Psycholinguistics
A	Outstanding understanding of psycholinguistic research and its relations with other cognitive domains, and with other linguistic branches; outstanding ability to approach research empirically and critically, to conduct small-scale empirical research and to analyze simple psycholinguistic data.
A-	Generally Outstanding understanding of psycholinguistic research and its relations with other cognitive domains, and with other linguistic branches; generally outstanding ability to approach research empirically and critically, to conduct small-scale empirical research and to analyze simple psycholinguistic data.
B	Substantial understanding of psycholinguistic research and its relations with other cognitive domains, and with other linguistic branches; substantial ability to approach research empirically and critically, to conduct small-scale empirical research and to analyze simple psycholinguistic data.
C	Satisfactory understanding of psycholinguistic research and its relations with other cognitive domains, and with other linguistic branches; satisfactory ability to approach research empirically and critically, to conduct small-scale empirical research and to analyze simple psycholinguistic data.
D	Barely satisfactory understanding of psycholinguistic research and its relations with other cognitive domains, and with other linguistic branches; barely satisfactory ability to approach research empirically and critically, to conduct small-scale empirical research and to analyze simple psycholinguistic data.
F	Unsatisfactory understanding of psycholinguistic research and its relations with other cognitive domains, and with other linguistic branches; unsatisfactory ability to approach research empirically and critically, to conduct small-scale empirical research and to analyze simple psycholinguistic data.

Facility for teaching announcement

All teaching materials will be uploaded (either before or after lecture) onto Blackboard (<https://blackboard.cuhk.edu.hk>), which is maintained by the TA. Announcements will be made via Blackboard.

Academic honesty and plagiarism

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>.

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed [declaration](#) that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign on the declaration.

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the

final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.