

## **COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT**

**NOTE:** ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTPC.

<b>Academic School/Department:</b>	Communications, Arts and Social Sciences
<b>Programme:</b>	Psychology
<b>FHEQ Level:</b>	5
<b>Course Title:</b>	Mind and Language
<b>Course Code:</b>	PSY 5400
<b>Course Leader:</b>	Dr George Berguno
<b>Student Engagement Hours:</b>	120
<b>Lectures:</b>	30
<b>Seminar / tutorials:</b>	15
<b>Independent / Guided Learning</b>	75
<b>Semester:</b>	Spring
<b>Credits:</b>	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

### **Course Description**

This is an interdisciplinary course that introduces students to current research and debates in the areas of language and communication. Whereas similar courses have focused on the relationship between language and mind, this course aims to address a relatively neglected aspect of psychology: the relationship between language and self. Beginning with an overview of the biological basis of language and a review of the developmental research on language acquisition, the course will also examine the relation between gesture and language. Clinical models of communication will be covered, focusing on pathological forms of communication such as schizophrenia and autism. The second part of the course will examine structuralist and poststructuralist approaches to language, linguistic interpretations of psychoanalytic theory, narrative communication and narrative identity, as well as theories of reading and writing.

**Prerequisites:** PSY 4120

### **Aims and Objectives**

The course provides students with an awareness of the nature and scope of one of the most important areas of research in psychology. It critically examines issues raised by multiple

perspectives to the study of language: empiricism, nativism, social behaviorism, phenomenology, structuralism, post-structuralism and the narrative paradigm. Furthermore, it explores the interrelationships between language, thought, self and culture. Students will become familiar with the application of key concepts in communication studies to various areas of psychological research; as well as examining the philosophical foundations of psychological research in the area of language and communication studies.

**Programme Outcomes:**

5A.i, 5C.i, 5D.i, 5Dii

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the Departmental/Schools page of the portal.

**Learning Outcomes:**

- Develop an understanding of psychological approaches to the study of language and communication
- Develop an understanding of the link between psychological processes and language
- Develop an appreciation of the complex link between language and self
- Gain insight into the ideological construction of (Barthesian) myths
- Appreciate the development and influence of structuralist and poststructuralist models of mind and language.

**Indicative Content**

Language as a module and as an artifact,  
Chomsky and Skinner  
Developmental milestones, critical periods  
Lateralization, localization, plasticity  
True language and proto-languages  
Lev Vygotsky  
G. H. Mead  
Saussure, structuralism & post-structuralism  
Pragmatics of human communication

**Assessment:**

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the Departmental page of the portal.

**Teaching Methodology:**

The course material will be covered in the following ways:

- I. Formal lectures
- II. Discussions of key ideas
- III. Recommended Readings & Websites
- IV. Films

**Bibliography:**

See syllabus for complete reading list

***Indicative Text(s):***

Aitchison, J. (1989). *The Articulate Mammal: An Introduction to Psycholinguistics*. London: Routledge

Mead, G. H. (1967). *Mind, Self, Society: From the Standpoint of a Social Behaviorist*. Chicago, Ill: University of Chicago Press.

Pinker, S. (1994). *The Language Instinct*. Penguin: Harmondsworth, Middlesex.

Vygotsky, L. (1989). *Thought and Language*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Watzlawick, P., Beavin, J.H. and Jackson, D. (1967). *Pragmatics of Human Communication: A Study of Interactional Patterns, Pathologies and Paradoxes*. New York: Norton.

***Journals***

Modern Language Journal

Brain and Language

Journal of Child Language

Language

Journal of Memory and Language

Studies in Second Language Acquisition

**Web Sites**

<http://www.apa.org>

<http://www.alz.org>

<http://wals.info>

*Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus*

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Change Log for this CSD:

Major or Minor Change?	Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTTC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry

Richmond, the American International University in London  
05 June 2013
