

Language and Cognition

Code: 106228
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2504235 Science, Technology and Humanities	OB	2	2

Contact

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Use of Languages

Principal working language: spanish (spa)
Some groups entirely in English: No
Some groups entirely in Catalan: No
Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

External teachers

Jesús Vega Encabo
José Manuel Igoa
Olga Fernández

Prerequisites

There are none.

Objectives and Contextualisation

The aim of this course is to examine the place of language in our cognitive architecture from different perspectives, such as linguistics, psychology of language and philosophy. It aims, on the one hand, to provide students with the theoretical tools to address questions about the nature of language and linguistic cognition and, on the other, to account for its relationship to other aspects of cognition and thought. The course examines how language, as a complex phenomenon, offers numerous clues to the functioning of mind and thought.

Competences

- Display a capacity for organisation and planning and, at the same time, for adapting to new problems or situations.
- Explain human cognition and intelligence on the basis of the construction of symbolic languages and systems.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
- Work collaboratively in teams.

Learning Outcomes

1. Approach language through specific methods for requesting and using linguistic data.

2. Evaluate the problems posed by the study of language and cognition based on the methods and concepts of philosophy, linguistics, cognitive science and other disciplines.
3. Gain familiarity with the different programmes of naturalistic study of the mind and their functioning.
4. Integrate elements from different areas of knowledge to analyse a situation and suggest actions or solutions.
5. Know the structure and evolution of the faculty of language, and the interactions between language and cognition.
6. Produce creative papers and personal projects in the corresponding area of study.
7. Promote team spirit and the integration of others' points of view.

Content

Theme I. The faculty of language

- I.1. Human language. Natural languages. The faculty of language
- I.2. Biolinguistics: language as a biological capacity of the human species
- I.3. Properties of languages
- I.4. Language acquisition
- I.5. Nature of language. Internal language and external language
- I.6. The computational system
- I.7. The so-called interfaces: the perceptual articulatory system and the conceptual-intentional system

Theme II. The relations of language and cognition

- II.1. Thought and language
- II.2. Internal speech
- II.3. Does language structure our mind?
- II.4. Language as a tool and as scaffolding
- II.5. Language and consciousness
- II.6. Language and Modularity of the Mind

Topic III. Language and cognitive processes

- III.1. Psychological processes in the use of language
 1. Basic notions of cognitive architecture
 2. Speech perception and word recognition; basic processes in reading
 3. Utterance and discourse processing
 4. Language production
 5. Language processing in bilinguals
- III.2. Ontogeny and phylogeny of language
 1. Innatism and specificity in language acquisition
 2. Language development in monolingual and multilingual environments
 3. Comparative language and cognition: cognition and communication in non-human animals
 4. Debates on the origin of language

Methodology

This course is organised as (i) a series of lectures in which the teachers will present the topics of the programme, (ii) discussion seminars that will require the prior preparation of the students based on reading materials and the organisation of debates, and (iii) the supervised completion of a series of personal tasks and assignments.

The virtual campus tools will provide all the details regarding the work materials and the dates for the completion of the activities proposed throughout the course.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Learning exercises	16	0.64	2, 6, 7, 4
Lectures	33	1.32	1, 5, 3
Type: Supervised			
Essay supervision	4.25	0.17	1, 2, 5, 6, 3, 7, 4
Type: Autonomous			
Reading course material	30	1.2	2, 5, 6, 3, 7
Study and preparation of themes and essays	62.25	2.49	2, 5, 6, 7

Assessment

In the event of a student committing any irregularity that may lead to a significant variation in the grade awarded to an assessment activity, the student will be given a zero for this activity, regardless of any disciplinary process that may take place. In the event of several irregularities in assessment activities of the same subject, the student will be given a zero as the final grade for this subject.

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Assignments and essays	30%	0	0	2, 6, 7, 4
Class presentations	20%	1.5	0.06	7, 4
Written exam	50%	3	0.12	1, 2, 5, 3

Bibliography

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- Eguren L. y Fernández Soriano, O. *Introducción a una sintaxis minimista*. Madrid, Gredos, 2016.
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Software

No specific software required.