

Language and Cognition

Code: 106228
ECTS Credits: 6

2025/2026

Degree	Type	Year
Science, Technology and Humanities	OB	2

Contact

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Teachers

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Teaching groups languages

You can view this information at the [end](#) of this document.

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
 - 1.1. Basic notions of cognitive architecture: computational theory of mind and other conceptions of mental architecture
 - 1.2. Perception and comprehension of spoken and written language
 - 1.3. Language production
 - 1.4. Language impairment in adults
- III.2. Ontogeny and phylogeny of language
 - 2.1. Innatism and specificity in language acquisition
 - 2.2. Alterations in the development of language
 - 2.3. Comparative language and cognition: cognition and communication in nonhuman animals; the problem of design features of language
 - 2.4. Debates on the origin of language

Activities and Methodology

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

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.

Assessment

Continuous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Assignments and essays	45 %	0	0	2, 6, 7, 4
Class presentations	25 %	1.5	0.06	7, 4
Written exam	30 %	3	0.12	1, 2, 5, 3

The assessment will consist of a final written test, one or more short written assignments and presentations (individual or group) in the practical seminars of the course.

Written exam: 30 % of the mark.

Homework and essays: 45 % of the mark.

Class presentations: 25 % of the mark.

The same distribution of percentages will be maintained in the extraordinary exam. Students who have passed the assignments and essays already completed may keep their marks. The 25 % of the mark for class presentations cannot be recovered.

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.

Single assessment

The student who chooses the Single Assessment mode will have to take a final test consisting of a written exam (55 %) and the delivery of the required essays (45 %).

This subject allows the use of AI technologies exclusively for support tasks such as [bibliographic or content-based searches, text correction or translations, where applicable]. Other specific situations may be contemplated, as deemed appropriate by the teacher. The student must clearly (i) identify which parts have been generated using AI technology; (ii) specify the tools used; and (iii) include a critical reflection on how these have influenced the process and final outcome of the activity. Lack of transparency regarding the use of AI in the assessed activity will be considered academic dishonesty; the corresponding grade may be lowered, or the work may even be awarded a zero. In cases of greater infringement, more serious action may be taken.

Bibliography

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Software

No specific software required.

Groups and Languages

Please note that this information is provisional until 30 November 2025. You can check it through this [link](#). To consult the language you will need to enter the CODE of the subject.

Name	Group	Language	Semester	Turn
(PAUL) Classroom practices	20	Spanish	second semester	morning-mixed
(TE) Theory	20	Spanish	second semester	morning-mixed