

ENG 161: Language and Mind

Spring Semester 2022
XΩΔ 02, Room 011
M/TH (10:30am-12:00pm)

Instructor: Natalia Pavlou
Email: pavlou.natalia@ucy.ac.cy

Office hours: M/TH 12pm-1:30pm,
3pm-4:30pm and by appointment
Location: UCY Caffé Nero

Course Description

Overview:

This course is designed to introduce students in the field of linguistics and psychology and in the scientific study of language. The focus lies on the development of language in early years and the interplay between language and the mind during language production and comprehension. How is language mentally represented and processed? How does human language in general, and any specific language specifically, interact with cognition and human cognitive processes? How does language relate to thought? Is the mind like a computer and language like its software? How does language interact with perception, attention, and memory? How can we use language to learn about the mind? The course will examine how empirical data can help with big questions in the philosophy of mind and language and in psychology, such as the relationship between language and thought, the 'nature' and 'nurture' of human development and issues in the primary linguistic areas of syntax, semantics, phonology, and pragmatics.

Course Objectives

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Synthesize the key ideas underpinning language development and psychology and have an insight of the basic concepts of the area of study, namely, the acquisition, perception and comprehension of language in children and adults
- Explore the relationship between language, mind and brain and have a variety of theoretical orientations and viewpoints about language and the structures in the mind and brain
- Identify and understand the methodology, goals, methods, findings and interpretations of research in the field
- Develop strong communication and writing skills

Course Details

Grade Distribution

Class Attendance and Participation.....	10%
Online Responses.....	15%
Response Paper	25%
Final Exam.....	50%

Online Responses

You will be able to find the assigned readings every week on Blackboard, which will be related to the discussion in class. There will also be an online discussion board on Blackboard for you to post your thoughts, response, criticism, or questions about the paper(s) of the week. You are required to post your comments for **3** papers of your choice (max. 200 words) and reply to **2** posts by your colleagues. Please pay attention to the deadline for each post, which will be indicated on Blackboard. Late posting won't be accepted. Your posts will count towards 15% of your final grades (3% each). Instructions on how to write your weekly response is on Blackboard.

Response paper

A response paper communicates a personal viewpoint and learning as they relate specifically to the class, paper, article, etc. in question and the ideas contained therein. For this class, students have to write a response paper for one of the papers posted on the class website (**min.2 pages, double space, due March 31st, by 11:59pm**).

Final Exam

The final exam will be cumulative and will include questions and exercises related to the discussion in the class and the course material.

Attendance/Participation

Attendance in lectures is obligatory and a continuous effort to participate in the discussion will be rewarded with 10% of your final grade.

Classroom Etiquette

Students have an obligation to their classmates and instructor to behave in such a manner as to enhance the learning environment. Please do not engage in behavior which disrupts class or otherwise detracts from the ability of your fellow students to learn. Such behaviors include arriving at class late, leaving before class is dismissed, speaking while others are speaking, reading magazines in class, cell-phones ringing etc.

Textbook/Readings

An Introduction to Language, V. Fromkin et al. 2017 (11e edition)

(available at UCY library, P107.F76 2017)

Additional class readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Tentative Schedule

The schedule on the syllabus is subject to change. Changes, if any, will be announced in class.

	Wk.	<i>Tuesday/Friday</i>
1	17/1-23/1	What do we call Language? Fromkin et al. chap. 1, Chomsky, chap. 4 & 5
2	24/1-30/1	Nature or nurture? Hauser et al. 2002, Rumelhart and McClelland 1986
3	31/1-4/2	Nature vs. Nurture: Sign languages Fromkin et al., chap. 2, Senghas and Coppola 2001, Chomsky 1986
4	7/2-11/2	The Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis Wolff and Holmes 2011, January and Kako 2007
5	14/2-18/2	Does language shape thought? Malt et al 1999, Lucy and Gaskins 2003
6	21/2-25/2	The semantics-pragmatics continuum Grice 1975
7	28/2-4/3	Words and Concepts Fromkin et al. chap. 3,5, Rosch 1973
8	7/3-11/3	NO CLASS/ Mental representation of nouns and verbs Snedeker and Gleitman 2003, Gleitman et al. 2005
9	14/3-18/3	Interfaces with perception and memory Tanenhaus et al. 1995
10	21/3-25/3	Sentence Processing Bock 1986
11	28/3-1/4	Pragmatics/ RESPONSE PAPER DEADLINE Sperber and Wilson 2002
12	4/4-8/4	Bilingualism and the mind Fromkin et al. chap. 8, Kroll and Bialystok 2013
13	11/4-15/4	Spontaneous speaking, texting and the mind Fromkin et al., chap. 12, Clark and Tree 2002, Houghton et al. 2018