Course Outline

PSYC3311

Language and Cognition

School of Psychology

Faculty of Science

T2, 2019

Last updated: 15/05/2019 11:11 PM

1. Staff

Position	Name	Email	Consultation times and locations	Contact Details
Course Convenor	Prof Marcus Taft			

2.3 Course learning outcomes (CLO)

At the successful completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of key concepts in cognitive and neurocognitive processes related to language.

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3. Strategies and approaches to learning

3.1 Learning and teaching activities

This course focuses on one important area of cognition, namely, the representation and processing of language, and as such, is an extension of the cognition component of PSYC2071, Perception & Cognition. It also draws upon knowledge gained about the brain in PSYC1011. The first 16 lectures will be given by Prof Taft. This will include an introduction to language and psycholinguistics followed by a coverage of phonology and speech perception, word recognition and reading, as well as sentence-level processing, and bilingualism. There will then be 4 lectures given by Prof McDonald on neuropsychological aspects of language and its dysfunction.

All lectures will adopt an interactive style, with questions being asked in class to help guide the direction of your thinking. You are encouraged to put up your hand to suggest an answer. Given that there are no penalties for wrong answers, this provides an opportunity for you to try out ideas that you think might be relevant. You are also welcome to ask questions during lectures for the same reason. That is, active learning is encouraged and, therefore, **attendance at lectures will be highly beneficial**. Lecture content will be conveyed orally, with an opportunity to think about the material, and ample time to write down the important information. Prof Taft will achieve this by writing the main points as they are presented using the document projector, while Prof McDonald will use Powerpoint presentation. Lecture notes and recordings will be made available on the PSYC3311 Moodle website.

The tutorial/practical classes will begin in Week 3. Tutorials will be relevant to the lecture material covered by Prof Taft, meaning that **it is important that you keep up to date with the lecture content**. In Weeks 3, 4, and 9, you will participate in psycholinguistic experiments with the aim of learning about some basic methodological approaches to psycholinguistic issues, as well as adding to the knowledge base developed from the lecture material. Attendance at tutorials is essential (see the UNSW Assessment Implementation Procedure). **Note also that tutorials will not be recorded.**

In addition to the experiments and demonstrations, there will be two further pieces of research that will require you to collect data outside of class time. The first of these will be designed and set up by you in partnership with two or three other students who are in your practical class. Suggestions for possible experiments will be presented in the practical class of Week 5 and you will have several weeks in which to set up your experiment and collect your data. There will be opportunities to consult with your tutor during this period, namely, in Weeks 6 and 7. An oral presentation of your project will be required in the practical class of Week 8, with a written report due at the beginning of Week 10. The purpose of this "group" project is for you to take a research question and follow through the logic and issues involved in setting up a means of addressing this question. Your success in achieving an answer to the question is far less important than the logic of how you go about testing it and how you interpret the data you collect. The self-design of the experiment is in line with the philosophy of active learning adopted in this course, and the project also provides valuable experience for developing your empirical skills, which are useful not only for future projects (as in an Honours year), but for any problem-based tasks you may face in your future career. In addition, the need to analyse your own data provides an opportunity to implement some of the statistical methods you might have been taught in another course.

The second piece of outside research will be introduced in the practical class of Week 9. This is a study that will already be designed for you, looking at the processing of discourse. You will be required to collect a few examples of discourse during the week, which must be sent electronically to Prof Taft by a given deadline. These will then be collated for use in the practical class of Week 10. No written report is required for this study, but the material covered is assessable in the final exam.

A quiz of multiple-choice questions based on the lecture material will be made available through Moodle after the second lecture of Week 3. The immediate feedback giving for this optional test will allow students to monitor their understanding of the course prior to the UNSW census date. Another formative quiz will be provided after the second lecture of Week 7 to allow students to continue monitoring their understanding of the content of the course.

The Lecture Discussion Forum provides students with an opportunity to question and clarify the concepts and ideas mentioned in the lectures. Students are strongly encouraged to engage with this forum by posting questions or comments, and reading, answering, or replying to other student's posts to enhance understanding of the content, critical thinking, and written communication skills.

3.2 Expectations of students

It is expected that students are aware of UNSW Assessment policy and understand how to apply for special consideration if they are unable to complete an assignment/exam due to illness and/or misadventure.

It is expected that students have read through the School of Psychology Student Guide.

Tutorial attendance is compulsory to ensure students are consistently working towards achieving the found

4. Course schedule and structure

Each week this course typically consists of 2 hours of lecture material, 2 hours of face to face tutorials, and 1 hour of online modules. Students are expected to take an additional 6 hours each week of self-determined study to complete assessments, readings, and exam preparation.

Week	Lecture topic/s	Tutorial/lab topics	Online modules	Self-determined activities
Week 1 03/06/2019	1. Introduction to language 2. Phonology	No labs	Phonemes of English	Practice with phonemic transcription.
Week 2 10/06/2019	3. Speech recognition 4. Spoken word recognition	No labs		Reading on speech processing
Week 3 17/06/2019	5. Spoken word recognition			

Study period 13/08/2019			Exam preparation
Exam period 16/08/2019			Exam preparation

5. Assessment

5.1 Assessment tasks

All assessments in this course have been designed and implemented in accordance with UNSW Assessment Policy.

6. Academic integrity, referencing and plagiarism

The APA (6th edition)