

PSY360 Bilingualism, Language and the Brain

Level: 3

Credit Units: 5 Credit Units

Language: ENGLISH

Presentation Pattern: EVERY JAN

Synopsis:

In this course, students explore how language experience affects the way we think and represent information. There will be a focus on topics in bilingualism, such as cross-linguistic and cross-cultural effects on thought, and the content will build upon cognitive concepts.

Students will reflect in detail about the multidimensional nature of bilingualism, and how bilingual speakers can differ greatly on factors such as age of acquisition, proficiency and switching behaviour. The course will also cover key debates in bilingualism research, such as the presumed advantages and disadvantages of bilingualism in cognition, and effects of linguistic distance (i.e. extent of similarity between languages) on bilingual language processing.

Topics:

- Language and how we think
- Cross-linguistic and cross-cultural effects on thought
- Bilingual language acquisition
- Bilingualism factors
- Cross-linguistic effects in language processing
- Bilingual language control
- Bilingualism and cognitive control
- The bilingualism debate
- Codeswitching
- Bilingual language representation
- How is bilingualism defined?
- Evaluating bilingualism research

Textbooks:

PSY360 Study Guide (UDC - SUSS)

ISBN-13: SG-2065

The Psychology of Language: An Integrated Approach 1st Ludden, D. Sage

ISBN-13: 9781483324609

Learning Outcome:

- Examine factors of bilingualism in language acquisition and language usage.
- Illustrate the influence of bilingualism on cognitive processes.
- Judge the real-life implications of bilingualism in areas such as emotion, learning and decision making.
- Question how bilingualism is measured and defined across different research studies.
- Apply bilingualism/language concepts and findings to everyday contexts.
- Evaluate the relevance of research findings across different language environments or cultural contexts.

Assessment Strategies - Regular Semester (Evening Class):

Components	Description	Weightage Allocation (%)
Overall Continuous Assessment	PARTICIPATION 1	10
	GROUP BASED ASSIGNMENT 1	40
Overall Examinable Components	ECA	50
Total		100

*The information listed is subject to review and change.