COURSE DATA

DATA SUBJECT

Code: 33351
Name: Psychology of language
Cycle: Undergraduate Studies
ECTS Credits: 6
Academic year: 2026-27

STUDY (S)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1319 - Degree in Psychology	Facultat de Psicologia i Logopèdia	3	First quarter

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1319 - Degree in Psychology	Basic psychological processes II: thought and language	COMPULSORY

COORDINATION

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SUMMARY

The course *Psychology of Language* is a compulsory subject taught in the third year of the Psychology Bachelor's Degree. It lasts for one semester and carries 6 ECTS credits. Its main objective is to introduce students to the study of the psychological processes involved in language comprehension, production, and acquisition from a cognitive perspective.

Throughout the course, the main theoretical models of language processing will be addressed, as well as the methodologies used in this field of research. Special attention will be given to the mechanisms involved in speech perception, word recognition, sentence and text comprehension, and language production.

The course incorporates current approaches such as cognitive neuropsychology and connectionism in order to provide an integrative view of human language functioning. In addition, practical applications in educational and clinical settings are explored.

The course combines theoretical content with practical activities closely linked to experimental psychology, allowing students to apply the knowledge acquired in the analysis and interpretation of experimental data and the critical reading of scientific literature. This strengthens the understanding of theoretical content and fosters critical thinking in the interpretation of empirical data.

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

There are no enrollment restrictions related to other subjects in the study plan. However, in order to make the most of the course, it is advisable for students to have already acquired knowledge from several first- and second-year subjects that provide the theoretical, methodological, and biological foundations for this field:

Learning Psychology (1st year): introduces basic principles of associative processing and knowledge acquisition, which are fundamental to understanding language learning (especially in childhood).

Perception and Attention (1st year): sound and word recognition depend on perceptual and attentional mechanisms; it also introduces automatic/controlled processing and modularity.

Statistics I and II (1st year): many activities in the Psychology of Language involve analyzing experimental tasks, interpreting graphs, or reading scientific articles whose methodology must be understood.

Physiological Psychology II (2nd year): provides the neuroanatomical and functional foundations necessary to understand the brain correlates of language and its disorders (Broca's/Wernicke's areas, lateralization, plasticity).

Psychology of Memory (2nd year): language is deeply connected to semantic, working, and episodic memory. It is essential for understanding lexical access and meaning construction.

COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

1319 - Degree in Psychology

Be able to describe and measure variables related to the processes of thinking and language.

Know the basic laws of the different psychological processes related to the processes of perception, comprehension and production of spoken and written language.

Know the different fields of application of Psychology of Thinking and Language and have the necessary knowledge to influence and promote the quality of life of individuals in different contexts: educational, clinical, etc.

Know the different research designs in Psychology of Thinking and Language, the procedures of formulation and testing of hypotheses and the interpretation of the results.

Know the functions, characteristics and limitations of the different theoretical models of Psychology of Thinking and Language.

Understand the biological foundations of human behaviour and of the psychological functions related to

the processes of thinking and language.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

1.Introduction to Psychology of Language

What is Psychology of Language?

First approaches to the study of language:

- Chomsky's hypothesis
- The behaviorist explanation
- Contemporary Psycholinguistics

Research methods in Psycholinguistics

Fundamental issues in language processing:

- Serial and parallel processing
- Automatic and controlled processes

Modularity

2. Biological foundations and acquisition of language

Brain mechanisms and language

Evolution of language and genetic bases

Early language acquisition

- Prelinguistic communication
- Early phonology
- The holophrases
- Lexical development
- Early grammaticalization

Late acquisitions

Bilingualism and second language learning

3. Speech perception

Key challenges in speech perception: Segmentation and signal variability

Acoustic properties of speech sounds

Processing of isolated phonetic segments: vowels, consonants, and categorical perception

Continuous speech perception and influence of lexical and syntactic context

4. Theoretical models of speech perception

Word recognition

Recognition of spoken words; lexical units

Experimental methods in word recognition

Factors influencing word access and organization: frequency, formal and semantic similarity.

Lexical access: Theories and models

5. Language comprehensioni: sentence processing

Structural properties of sentences

Syntactic processing

Lexical and syntactic ambiguity

Sentence processing models

Influence of context

Experimental studies on sentence processing

6. Language comprehension II: discourse and text

Discourse processing

Structural, functional and semantic perspectives

Coherence

Inferences

Discourse memory: Situation models and schemes

Educational implications

7. Speech production and planning

Data sources in the study of speech production and planning

- Spontaneous speech errors
- Pauses and disfluencies
- *Tip-of-the-tongue* phenomenon
- Evidence from the study of aphasia

Planning levels

Production models

Conversational interaction

WORKLOAD

PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Theoretical and practical classes	60,00
Total hours	**60,00**

NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	5,00
Individual or group project	25,00
Independent study and work	5,00
Preparation of lessons	15,00
Preparation for assessment activities	25,00
Resolution of case studies	15,00
Total hours	**90,00**

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

M1. Lectures delivered by the professor, in which the different course contents will be presented while encouraging active student participation through the discussion and resolution of questions that may arise during the session.

M2. Practical classes, demonstrations, and problem-solving activities aimed at enabling students to acquire the necessary skills for designing experiments, collecting data, analyzing results, and presenting their work in line with scientific communication standards.

M3. Individual tutorials designed to supervise and guide students in order to ensure proper follow-up of their learning activities.

M4. Integrated theory-practice sessions supported by audiovisual materials, links to relevant websites, textbooks, scientific articles, and other readings and resources related to the subject matter.

EVALUATION

SE1.- Assessment of theoretical and practical contents through oral, written or performance-based tests. Resit option available. This component accounts for **70% of the final grade**. It consists of two parts:

> (SE1.1) Assessment of theoretical contents through an individual final objective test held during the official examination sessions scheduled by the Faculty. This test will include questions covering a selection of the contents and competences specified in this syllabus. It will represent 60% of the final grade (both in the first and resit sessions). A minimum score of 3 out of 6 is required in order to pass the course. The grade obtained in this part will be kept for the resit session if this part is passed but the practical part (SE1.2) is not.
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> (SE1.2) Assessment of practical contents: synthesis test consisting of objective or short questions covering all practical activities. This test will be held during the same official session as the theoretical exam. It will account for 10% of the final grade (both in the first and resit sessions). A minimum score of 0.5 out of 1 is required to pass the course. The grade obtained in this part will be kept for the resit session if this part is passed but the theoretical part (SE1.1) is not.

SE2.- Oral or written presentation of reports, individual or group assignments, clinical cases, problem solving, and administration of diagnostic tests. This component accounts for **30% of the final grade**. It consists of two parts:

> (SE2.1) Written presentation of reports, individual or group assignments, clinical cases and problem solving. This part accounts for 15% of the final grade and is recoverable. The schedule for submission or presentation will be determined by the lecturer. In any case, they must be submitted at least 15 days before the corresponding exam. Submission and approval of these assignments (minimum 0.75 out of 1.5) are required in order to qualify for the final passing grade. The grades will be kept for the resit session if a minimum of 0.75 points has been achieved.
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> (SE2.2) Participation in class activities, seminars and/or workshops, motivation towards the quality of learning outcomes, and submission of assignments determined by the lecturer. This part accounts for 15% of the final grade, of which 10% is recoverable. At least 50% of the recoverable activities must be submitted and passed in order to qualify for the final passing grade. The grades will be kept for the resit session if a minimum of 0.5 points has been achieved. To be evaluated, the activities must be submitted within one week prior to the first exam session or 15 days prior to the resit exam session.

GRADING SYSTEM.
The grading will comply with the Assessment and Grading Regulations of the Universitat de València for Bachelor's and Master's degrees (ACGUV 108/2017, May 30th, 2017). http://www.uv.

es/graus/normatives/2017_108_reglament_avaluacio_qualificacio.

A minimum final score of 5 points is required to pass the course. According to UV regulations, grades are expressed numerically from 0 to 10 with one decimal, using the following scale:

0 to 4.9: fail.

5 to 6.9: pass.

7 to 8.9: good.

9 to 10: excellent or excellent with distinction.

For the award of Distinction, the highest grades in each group will be considered (provided a minimum of 9.5 is achieved). In case of a tie, an additional oral or written test will be held. If no Distinctions can be awarded in one group, they may be transferred to another group by agreement of the teaching unit.

WARNING: All student submissions will be scanned for plagiarism using the StrikePlagiarism software. In cases of clear plagiarism, copying work from others, or any fraudulent practice related to graded tasks, the student will automatically fail the course and face disciplinary procedures. According to Article 13.d of the University Student Statute (RD1791/2010, December 30th), students have the duty to refrain from using or assisting fraudulent procedures in exams, assignments or official university documents.

During office hours, lecturers may require individual or group interviews to verify student participation and achievement in assigned tasks. Failure to attend such verification interviews will result in failing the corresponding task or activity.

In the case of fraudulent practices (plagiarism, improper use of artificial intelligence), the procedures established by the Protocol of action against fraudulent practices of the Universitat de València (ACGUV 123/2020) will apply: https://www.uv.es/sgeneral/protocols/c83.pdf

REFERENCES

Basic references

Cuetos, F., González, J., & de Vega, M. (2020). Psicología del lenguaje (2ª ed.). Editorial Médica Panamericana.

Dijkstra, T., & Peeters, D. (2023). The new psychology of language: From body to mental model and back. Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003326274

Sedivy, J. (2019). An introduction to Psycholinguistics (2nd Edition). Sinauer Associates. Sunderland: MA

Traxler, M. J. (2012). Introduction to psycholinguistics: Understanding language science. Wiley.

Carroll, D. W. (2006). Psicología del lenguaje. Thomson.

Supplementary references

Nacenta, L. (2025). Cálculo de metáforas: La confluencia de lengua y matemática en el S. XXI. Debate.

Costa, A. (2017). El cerebro bilingüe: La neurociencia del lenguaje. Debate. ISBN 978-84-9992-765-7.