

31220 - Psychology of Language

Syllabus Information

Academic year: 2024/25

Subject: 31220 - Psychology of Language

Faculty / School: 301 - Facultad de Ciencias Sociales y Humanas

Degree: 613 - Degree in Psychology

ECTS: 6.0

Year: 3

Semester: First semester

Subject type: Compulsory

Module:

1. General information

The subject focuses on the cognitive and neural bases of language: comprehension, production, acquisition, and reading. In the clinical or educational area, the psychologist must know the basis of language and the fundamentals of related disorders. The subject is related to basic psychology subjects given the interactions with other processes (attention or memory) or with developmental psychology (language development) and other areas (neuropsychology, psychological processes of reading and writing). The subject will address the cognitive and neurofunctional models of different linguistic processes and explain how these models provide for various disorders.

2. Learning results

The university training offered in this discipline aims to provide students with a global vision of language functioning. Language is one of our most precious abilities, on which the activities of speaking and listening, writing and reading depend. Understanding the functioning of this fundamental capacity and the dysfunction is necessary to understand the "essence" of the human being. We are especially aware of the importance of understanding linguistic processes when any of its components fail in developmental or acquired dysfunctions. The subject will provide a basic conceptual framework for understanding these alterations.

To pass this subject, the students shall demonstrate they have acquired the following results:

- Describe and explain the basic processes that take place in the comprehension and production of oral and written language.
- Know the cognitive foundations of the most common language failures in pathological and normal settings.
- Analyse, synthesize, and express in a clear and precise way informative and technical reports and scientific articles.
- Acquire the fundamentals of experimentation in the psychology of language, which will enable them to understand literature in the future.
- Have a critical view of scientific reports and articles.

3. Syllabus

I - INTRODUCTION

UNIT 1: Psychology of Language: What? What for?

UNIT 2: Description and Basis of Language

II - LANGUAGE COMPREHENSION

UNIT 3: Speech Perception

UNIT 4: Word Recognition

UNIT 5: Semantic Processing

UNIT 6: Understanding the Sentence

UNIT 7: Discourse Comprehension

III - LANGUAGE PRODUCTION and CONVERSATIONAL INTERACTION

UNIT 8: Speech and Language Production.

UNIT 9: Conversational Interaction.

IV - ACQUISITION and BIOLOGICAL BASIS OF LANGUAGE

UNIT 10: Biological Basis of Language.

UNIT 11: Basis of Language Acquisition

UNIT 12: Bases of Reading Acquisition.

V - LANGUAGE IN PERSPECTIVE

UNIT 13: Language, Culture and Cognition

UNIT 14: New Approaches

4. Academic activities

The learning process combines lectures with practical classes, group activities, tutorials, and personal work. The theory sessions include a master class, with commentaries on scientific texts and videos. The intervention of students will be encouraged. The practical sessions include documentaries to contextualize the subject matter that will generate initial questions from the students. Psycholinguistic experiments will be developed, and short scientific reports will be written about them. There will be an analysis of speech with appropriate software. A brief research proposal will be developed, dealing with any of the topics within the subject. Finally, a debate on the interaction between language and thinking will be developed and implemented.

5. Assessment system

Globally, the practical part accounts for 3/10 of the grade, and the theoretical part for 7/10. They are independent in their evaluation.

Continuous assessment. Theoretical part: After each thematic unit, there will be a test with 7-10 questions per topic. The final grade will be the arithmetic mean of all tests. Wrong answers are penalized (Grade = right answers - errors/3). This continuous assessment can entail the 4/10 of the final grade. **Practical part:** Individual or group reports will be linked to the practices. Participation in discussions and the quality of presentations and reports will be evaluated. Once this part is passed, passing the final practice exam is not mandatory. To be eligible for the continuous evaluation of the practices, a minimum attendance of 80% is required.

Global test. Non-face-to-face students will be evaluated with a theoretical and practical exam in the relevant call. The student may opt for the maximum grade in the global test, independently of the continuous evaluation.

Theoretical exam (7/10 of the grade): It involves 7-10 questions per topic. The grading system has been detailed above. **Practical exam** (3/10 of the grade): Set of short questions related to the practices.

6. Sustainable Development Goals

3 - Good Health & Well-Being

4 - Quality Education

5 - Gender Equality