

Language and Cognitive Science: CGSC 3301A
Fall 2020
Syllabus

Instructor Information

Course instructor: Dr. Nalini E. Ramlakhan, PhD

E-mail: naliniramlakhan@cunet.carleton.ca

Office hours: Virtual, by appointment

Course Information

Fall 2020, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:05PM-2:25PM

Course title: Language and Cognitive Science

Course number: 3301 A

Room: N/A

Department: Cognitive Science

Prerequisite(s): third-year standing, and CGSC 2001

Course Website:

CULearn will be used for access to the course content, grades, announcements, discussion boards, etc. It is recommended that students regularly check CULearn for course updates and other information. Students are responsible for keeping current with the information on CULearn. Students must check CULearn regularly for important messages, course information, assignment information, and exam information.

Official Course Description

Issues related to language and cognitive science are examined through a detailed consideration of selected topics.

Detailed Course Description

This course focuses on the importance of language in cognition, particularly the way in which language influences our worldview. In the first half of the course, students are introduced to the idea that language, and the way we use language, influences our perception of the world, questioning whether there is such a thing as ‘universality,’ and if so, to what degree. Students will also examine the role of emotion in language and cognition to further understand the role that language plays in our understanding of the world around us.

The second half of the course examines and applies what students learned in the first half of the course through a social/anthropological perspective. Students will read selections of autobiographies from contributors, both scholars and non-scholars, to better situate the important role that language plays in cognition and in our perception of the world. By the end of the course, students will have a well-rounded approach to language and cognition, exploring the many fields of cognitive science, including linguistics, psychology, neuroscience, philosophy, and anthropology.

Course Texts

Besemeres, M., & Wierzbicka, A. (Eds.). (2007). *Translating lives: Living with two languages and cultures*. Univ. of Queensland Press.

Plamper, J. & Tribe, K. (2015). *The history of emotions: An introduction*. New York: Oxford.

Both books are available for free as an e book via Carleton's library portal. If you would like physical copies of the books, I recommend ordering the book early from Amazon.

Articles and other course materials: accessed via Google Scholar, Carleton's Library Portal, or links provided on CULearn.

Disclaimer: I reserve the right to change the readings or topics assigned. Changes will not add substantial workload.

Evaluation

PARTICIPATION

Value: 40%

Description: Classes are far more rewarding and effective when students are actively engaged with the material. At the beginning of some weeks (our week begins on Thursdays), I will post a discussion question in the forum, and I require your participation in responding and sharing your ideas with your peers. You will be graded based on the quality of your contributions. A maximum of 5% of this grade will be awarded per discussion, and there will be 8 discussions in total. If you miss the discussion, you will receive a 0 unless verifiable or excusable documentation is provided. Participation dates are as follows:

First Half:

Discussion 1: (discussion start date) September 17th- (discussion end date) September 23rd

Discussion 2: October 1st-October 7th

Discussion 3: October 8th-October 14th

Discussion 4: October 15th-October 21st

Second Half:

Discussion 5: November 5th-November 11th

Discussion 6: November 12th-November 18th

Discussion 7: November 26th-December 2nd

Discussion 8: December 3rd-December 9th

In order to provide early feedback, participation is divided into two categories: 20% for the first half of the term and 20% for the second half of the term. Discussions submitted after the end date will not be accepted.

PRESENTATION

Value: 20%

Due: November 3rd

Description: Students will create a presentation using various technological resources. Due to the changing world around us, it is imperative that students learn to use technology in a creative way. Students will create and share a 5-7 minute presentation. Students can choose from the topics posted on the course website. Presentations WILL NOT be held live. Rather, students will upload their presentation to the course website. Presentations will be based on the course material. Students are welcome to bring in secondary sources, but this is not a requirement. Further instructions will be provided on the course website. See 'Notes' for missed presentations.

TAKE-HOME EXAM

Value: 40%

Due: Final due date is December 23rd

Description: Exams can be submitted on CULearn from December 12th-December 23rd. Exams must be submitted via CULearn on or before the due date. Request for deferrals must be submitted to the registrar's office. Students must work independently. The exam will take the form of an essay, roughly 10-12 pages, double-spaced, 12 point font Times New Roman. Please do not email me your take-home exam.

NOTES

1. The standard time for returning graded assignments is two weeks from the date of the assignment. If additional time is needed for grading, an announcement will be made on the CULearn website.
2. A make-up presentation or discussion will be provided only upon presentation of verifiable documentation (e.g., a doctor's note). A failure to provide one will result in a zero. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor if a presentation or assignment is missed. Students must contact the instructor within 72 hours of a missed presentation or discussion to schedule a make-up. This is the student's responsibility. Arrangements must be made directly with the instructor. There are no exceptions.
3. Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).
4. The time holder for this course is Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:05PM-2:25PM. Classes will not be held live, and this course is mostly asynchronous. However, if students request, I will hold meetings on certain days (to be announced via the course website) to discuss ideas or answer any questions, and the day and time will accord with the time holder for this course. It is your responsibility to ensure that you are made available during the time that the course is scheduled.
5. Although the course is mostly asynchronous, students should keep up with course readings as per the schedule below. This course is envisioned as a directed study

course/seminar with peer participation. This means that students will be responsible in managing their time in approaching textbook material and concepts selected by the professor, who will give indications as to what is most important in them by means of content posted on CULearn. The professor is above all a learning facilitator in this course. The professor is available throughout the semester to meet with students by phone or online in order to clarify and discuss the course materials. It is strongly recommended that students consult with her as needed.

Class Schedule: Each week contains required readings (listed below) and one or more of the following: voice over PowerPoint lectures, YouTube videos, links to webpages for additional reading, and activities. The additional resources can be found in the folder for the specified week on CULearn, and will be released at least 24 hours before the start of the week, and no more than 72 hours before the start of the week. This is to ensure that students are contributing to discussions and learning material at the same pace.

Introduction to Language and Cognitive Science

September 10th and 15th

Overview of course syllabus and class expectations

Readings: Boroditsky, Does Language Shape Thought?: Mandarin and English

Speakers' Conceptions of Time http://logic.amu.edu.pl/images/7/7e/Socjo_Boroditsky.pdf

Besemeres & Wierzbicka, Introduction

September 17th and 22nd

Movie or documentary: TBA

Emotion, Language, and Cognition

September 24th and 29th

Readings: Plamper & Tribe, Part II, Sections 1-6 (pp. 75-108)

October 1st and 6th

Plamper & Tribe, Part II, Sections 7-10 (pp. 109-146)

October 8th and 13th

Plamper & Tribe, Part III, Sections 1-5 (pp. 147-185)

October 15th, 20th and 22nd

Plamper & Tribe, Part III, Sections 6-19 (pp. 186-248)

Language and Worldviews

November 3rd, 5th, and 10th

Besemeres & Wierzbicka, Chapters 1-3

November 12th and 17th

Besemeres & Wierzbicka, Chapters 4-6

November 19th and 24th

Besemeres & Wierzbicka, Chapters 7-9

November 26th and December 1st

Besemeres & Wierzbicka, Chapters 10-12

December 3rd and December 8th

Movie or documentary: TBA

December 10th

No Readings

Take-home exam information discussed

Additional Information

In accordance with the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar (p 34), the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D+ = 57-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	D = 53-56
A - = 80-84	B - = 70-72	C - = 60-62	D - = 50-52
F = Below 50			

Grades entered by Registrar:

WDN = Withdrawn from the course

DEF = Deferred

Academic Regulations, Accommodations, Etc.

University rules regarding registration, withdrawal, appealing marks, and most anything else you might need to know can be found on the university's website, here:

Pregnancy obligation

Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the Student Guide Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the Student Guide

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613 - 520 - 6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in - class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting an accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodations arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadlines to request accommodations for the formally - scheduled exam (if applicable).

Plagiarism

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include: ☐ reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source; ☐ submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by

someone else; ☒ using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment; ☒ using another's data or research findings; ☒ failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks; ☒ handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

Important Information

- Students must always retain a hard copy of all work that is submitted.
 - All final grades are subject to the Dean's approval.
 - For us to respond to your emails, we need to see your full name, CU ID, and the email must be written from your valid CARLETON address. Therefore, in order to respond to your inquiries, please send all email from your Carleton CMail account. If you do not have or have yet to activate this account, you may wish to do so by visiting <http://carleton.ca/ccs/students/>
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For a list of dates and deadlines, including holidays and exam dates, please visit:

<https://carleton.ca/registrar/registration/dates-and-deadline>

