### B.A. (Honours) in Contemporary English Studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Psycholinguistics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Code</td>
<td>ENG3266 / ENG266</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recommended Study Year</td>
<td>3\textsuperscript{rd} year for 4-year System</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2\textsuperscript{nd} year for 3-year System</td>
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<tr>
<td>No. of credits/semester</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mode of Tuition</td>
<td>Lecture and Tutorial</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Contact hours</td>
<td>2 hours Lecture/week</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 hour Tutorial/week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Category in Major Programme</td>
<td>Required Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prerequisite(s)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td>Co-requisite(s)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exclusions</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td>Exemption requirements</td>
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### Brief Course Description:

Psycholinguistics is the psychological study of language: the study of the structures and processes which underlie human ability to learn and speak a language. It is a subject area which links psychology and linguistics. This course will study what is happening within each individual when language is learned, processed and comprehended. The course will offer a practical orientation in order to relate theory to students’ possible career options in teaching, speech therapy or related disciplines.

The course explores topics such as cohesion, coherence and inferencing from a language processing and experimental psychology point of view rather than from the cultural, ideological and formal logic standpoint of ENG 3202 Discourse Analysis.

### Aims

1. To introduce the central concepts of psycholinguistics
2. To demonstrate the importance of these concepts in developing an understanding of language learning and language acquisition
3. To provide an appropriate foundation for students who wish to pursue research in this subject area

### Learning Outcomes

Students should be able to:
1. demonstrate wide reading by participating in class discussions.
2. demonstrate cooperative and individual learning through oral presentations.
3. demonstrate problem solving abilities by successfully integrating the knowledge gained from lectures and the reading of psycholinguistics texts.
4. demonstrate an ability to select, summarize and synthesize information from different sources and apply arguments to support alternative viewpoints.
5. demonstrate an ability to write in an academic style, with appropriate use of the conventions of referencing and citation.
6. demonstrate skills in writing critically, with judgment and reflection.
7. critically analyze and evaluate the methodologies used in the experiments discussed on the course.
8. demonstrate an understanding of what constitutes a scientific approach to the study of psycholinguistics.
9. demonstrate an ability to take notes during lectures and to use these notes in exam and essay assessment and in oral presentations.
10. demonstrate an ability to read widely and independently.

**Indicative Content**

1. Linguistics and Psychology:
   Mental grammar, the Chomsky approach, phrase structure rules, the lexicon, deep structure, transformational rules and interpretation, universal grammar and the rationalist/empiricist view of language acquisition.

2. Language and the Brain:
   Lateralization, brain maturation and the critical period in learning. Language loss: aphasia, dyslexia, methods of investigating the brain and language.

3. Language comprehension and memory:
   Theories and models: words, sentences and texts. Schema theory, discourse processing, lexical, pragmatic, syntactic and semantic meaning.

4. Child language acquisition:
   Vocalization, one word utterances, morpheme acquisition order, developing grammar, imitation and correction in learning, Universal Grammar.

5. Second language learning:
   Social and psychological factors, critical period, survey of relevant teaching approaches.

**Teaching Method**

Lectures and tutorials

**Measurements of Learning Outcomes**

Class discussion, individual presentations, research essay, written exam.

One essay. (Outcomes 3-10) 10 marks
Mid-term test (multiple choice and paragraph answers required)  
(Outcomes 3-10)  
15 marks
Tutorial participation, including presentations:  
(Outcomes 1,2,3,4,7,8,9,10)  
15 marks
Final examination: (Outcomes 3-10)  
60 marks

Required Readings

Sharp, A. (2010), Psycholinguistics, materials and methods, Lingnan University.

Supplementary Readings

A wide range of handouts and video & youtube samples will also be provided.