



Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD009586	Version: 1 Date Amended: 30/Oct/2023
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1. Module Title
Psychology of Language

2a. Module Leader
Melanie Bell

2b. School
School of Humanities and Social Sciences

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Arts, Humanities, Education and Social Sciences

3a. Level
4

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
15

4b. Study Hours
150

5. Restrictions			
Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:			

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

This module provides an overview of the psychological representation of language, touching upon the nature of language and languages; animal communication; child language acquisition; the relationship between language, thought and meaning; and language disorders. You will first learn about the way first languages are acquired and how this process and end-product differ from animal communication systems. You will then move on to consider the connection between language and thought and how words and sentences come to be meaningful. Finally, you will learn about language disorders, both in terms of how and why language can become impaired and in terms of what this means for our understanding of language more widely. During the module you will be introduced to many of the core questions about language and you will encounter some of the main theories and ideas of the discipline. The overall focus will be on the development of transferable intellectual skills, including the recognition of what constitutes evidence, the analysis of data to provide it, the critical evaluation of arguments, and the identification of underlying assumptions.

The module contributes to the development of your employability skills including self-management, teamwork, oral communication, and IT skills.

6b. Outline Content

- The nature of language and languages
- Child language acquisition
- Animal communication
- Thought and meaning
- The nature of vocabulary
- Speaking and understanding
- Language disorders

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: <https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/>

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

None

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	Type	On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate basic awareness of some of the main theories concerning the human language faculty.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate basic awareness of some of the main fields of investigation concerning the human language faculty.
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Demonstrate an understanding of the nature of a theory and of what constitutes an explanation.
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Demonstrate the ability to distinguish between evidence and opinion and to apply this difference in one's learning.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2025/6	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	Hours	Learning Outcomes	Details of Duration, frequency and other comments
Lectures	12	1-2	Weekly 1-hour lecture
Other teacher managed learning	12	1-4	Weekly 1-hour seminar
Student managed learning	126	3-4	Preparatory readings, further research, preparation of presentations and essays
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-4	100 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
2000 words Essay					

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:

- (a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above**
- (b) pass any pass/fail elements**

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]