

# BEHV 3019 PSYCHOLOGY OF LANGUAGE

**Credit Points** 10

**Legacy Code** 100023

**Coordinator** Liquan Liu ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Liquan Liu/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Liquan%20Liu/))

**Description** This unit acquaints students with major issues in the psychology of language. Through a series of online modules, it examines different approaches to research and theory on questions such as: the acquisition and development of language; the relationship between language and thought; bilingualism and multilingualism; speech perception and production; sign language; reading and writing; the neurophysiological underpinnings of language; patterns of language breakdown and communication disorders; social aspects of language; language in non-human animals. The tutorials take a hands-on approach, where students learn new skills, such as reading and producing phonetic symbols, creating stimuli for use in psycholinguistic research, and analysing children's speech.

**School** Psychology

**Discipline** Psychology

**Student Contribution Band** HECS Band 4 10cp

Check your HECS Band contribution amount via the Fees ([https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current\\_students/fees/](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/fees/)) page.

**Level** Undergraduate Level 3 subject

**Restrictions** Successful completion of 120 credit points.

**Assumed Knowledge**

Solid understanding of perception, cognitive processes, and experimental design and analysis in psychology and/or a solid understanding of linguistics and research methods in linguistics.

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this subject, students should be able to:

1. Identify major issues, theories, and research findings in psychology of language (APAC Graduate Attribute 1).
2. Critically evaluate the various theories that have been proposed in a sub-topic of psychology of language (APAC GA 3).
3. Use principles of experimental psychology and/or knowledge of major issues, theories, and research findings in psychology of language to create a research proposal or critical essay in a sub-topic of psychology of language (APAC GA 6).
4. Create stimuli for an experiment in psychology of language (APAC GA 2 and 5).
5. Analyse spoken language using phonemic transcription.

## Subject Content

This subject acquaints students with major issues in the psychology of language. All students will complete a set of core modules:

- 1.???? What is language?
- 2.???? How is language described?
- 3.???? How does language relate to psychology?

This will be followed by an opportunity for students pursue study in a range of subtopic areas. A subset of modules will be offered each year, in topics such as:

- 1.????? The social basis of language
- 2.????? The biological basis of language
- 3.????? Bilingualism
- 4.????? Second language acquisition
- 5.????? Sign language
- 6.????? Perception of speech
- 7.????? Spoken word recognition
- 8.????? Production of speech
- 9.????? Reading and spelling
- 10.???? Visual word recognition
- 11.???? Writing
- 12.???? Comprehension
- 13.???? Language development
- 14.???? Language disorders
- 15.???? Language testing
- 16.???? The relationship between language and thought
- 17.???? Can non-human animals learn language?
- 18.???? Understanding the structure of sentences
- 19.???? Semantic processing

## Assessment

The following table summarises the standard assessment tasks for this subject. Please note this is a guide only. Assessment tasks are regularly updated, where there is a difference your Learning Guide takes precedence.

Item	Length	Percent	Threshold	Individual/Group Task
Proposal	1 500 words	35	N	Individual
Report	500 words + stimulus item submission	20	N	Individual
Final Exam	2 hours	45	N	Individual

Teaching Periods

## Autumn

### Bankstown

**Day**

**Subject Contact** Liquan Liu ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Liquan Liu/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Liquan%20Liu/))

View timetable ([https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/even/timetable/?subject\\_code=BEHV3019\\_22-AUT\\_BA\\_D#subjects](https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/even/timetable/?subject_code=BEHV3019_22-AUT_BA_D#subjects))

### Penrith (Kingswood)

**Day**

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### Parramatta - Victoria Rd

**Day**

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