COGS 101C: Language
Winter 2020
Warren Lecture Hall 2001, Tues / Thurs, 5:00 – 6:20 pm

Instructor: **Kensy Cooperrider** (kcooperrider@ucsd.edu)
Office hours: Thurs 4 – 5 pm, SSRB 201-211 suite (or by appointment)

TA: **Tania Delgado** (tadelgad@ucsd.edu)
Discussion section: Wed 4 – 4:50 pm, CENTR 222
Office hours: Tues 3 – 4 pm, CSB 230

IAs: **Andria Guillen** (aguillen@ucsd.edu)
Discussion section: Fri 4 – 4:50 pm, CENTR 222
Office hours: Fri 1 – 2 pm, CSB kitchen

    Jean Hong (jmh052@ucsd.edu)
Discussion section: Mon 3 – 3:50 pm, CENTR 222
Office hours: Mon 2 – 3 pm, Audrey's Cafe (Geisel)

Course description: This course is an introduction to the cognitive science of language. We will cover topics such as: how human language differs from animal communication systems; how languages, both spoken and signed, are structured and how they vary; how people use language to communicate about concrete and abstract ideas; how conversation works; how language is processed in the brain; and how it may have evolved in our species.

Course objectives: Students will become familiar with major issues in the study of human language and cognition, as well as develop their abilities to critically evaluate research in the cognitive sciences.

Schedule:

<u>Week 1: Language in broad perspective</u>
(**no sections or office hours this week**)

Tues, Jan 7 – Course intro: Language in broad perspective

Thurs, Jan 9 – Animal communication systems
    Reading: Pagel, 'Q&A: What is human language…?'
    Practice quiz

Week 2: Building blocks of language

Tues, Jan 14 – Sounds
    Listening: Lingthusiasm #12: '[Sounds you can't hear](#)' [transcript [here](#)]

Thurs, Jan 16 – Morphemes and words
    Listening: Lingthusiasm #16: '[Learning parts of words'](#) [transcript [here](#)]
    Quiz 1

Week 3: Domains of meaning—Space, senses

Tues, Jan 21 – Space
    Reading: Majid et al., 'The case for space' (on Canvas)

Thurs, Jan 23 – The senses
    Reading: Yong, '[Why do most languages have so few words for smells](#)?'
    Quiz 2

Week 4: Domains of meaning—Numbers

Tues, Jan 28 – Numbers
    Reading: Everett, '[How do you count with numbers](#)?'

Thurs, Jan 30: **MIDTERM 1**

Week 5: Domains of meaning—Time and metaphors

Tues, Feb 4 – Time
    Reading: Cooperrider & Núñez, '[How we make sense of time](#)'

Thurs, Feb 6 – Metaphor and analogy
    Reading: Casasanto & Bottini, 'Spatial language and abstract concepts' (on Canvas)
    Quiz 3

Week 6: Language in interaction

Tues, Feb 11 – Conversation
    Reading: Dingemanse & Enfield, 'Let's talk' (on Canvas)

Thurs, Feb 13 – Deixis
    Reading: TBD
    Quiz 4

Week 7: Language in the brain

Tues, Feb 18 – Simulating language
      Reading: Bergen, 'Embodiment, simulation and meaning' (on Canvas)

Thurs, Feb 20 – Reading in the brain
      Reading: Dehaene et al., 'Illiterate to literate' (on Canvas)
      Quiz 5

Week 8: Gesture

Tues, Feb 25 – Gesture
      Reading: Cooperrider & Goldin-Meadow, 'Gesture, language, and cognition' (on Canvas)

Thurs, Feb 27 – **MIDTERM #2**

Week 9: Sign languages

Tues, Mar 3 – Established sign languages
      Reading: Pyers, 'Sign languages' (on Canvas)

Thurs, Mar 5 – Emerging languages
      Reading: Goldin-Meadow, 'On inventing language' (on Canvas)
      Quiz 6

Week 10: Evolution of language

Tues, Mar 10 – When, why, and how did language evolve?
      Reading: Robson, 'In the beginning was the word, and the word was embodied'

Thurs, Mar 12 – In-class Final Exam review

FINAL EXAM: Thursday, March 19, 7:00 – 10:00 pm

Grade components

Midterms (2 x 20%)	Total= **40%**
Mix of multiple-choice and (very) short answer.	
<u>*Non-cumulative.*</u>	

Final exam	Total= **25%**
Mix of multiple-choice and (very) short answer.	
<u>*Cumulative.*</u>	

Quizzes (6)	Total= **30%**
About material on week of quiz. Lowest score dropped.	

Experiment participation/ summaries	Total =**5%**

Readings and other materials:

All readings will be available as PDFs, either linked directly from the course syllabus or available through the course Canvas site. Assigned podcast listening will be linked directly from the course syllabus. All assigned reading (or listening) must be completed *before* the class on which the material is assigned.

Clickers will be used for in-class quizzes, and for other in-class participation. Please make sure you have registered a clicker by Tuesday, January 14th.

Podcasting and slides:

This course will be podcast (https://podcast.ucsd.edu/watch/wi20/cogs101c_a00). A PDF of the slides for each lecture will be posted on the Canvas site, usually after the day's class.

Experiment participation:

In this class you will be required to participate in 3 hours of experiments through the SONA system (http://ucsd.sona-systems.com/), worth 5% of your grade. As an alternative, you may write summaries of articles on topics related to the course (from a pre-approved list to be posted on the course website). Each 1-page write-up must include: (a) a brief summary of the main content; and (b) a critical reflection on the findings or research described.

Note: Your first two experimental hours/ summaries are worth **1%** each, and your third hour/ summary is worth **3%**.