

Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur

Proposal for a New Course

1. Course No: ENG4XX

2. Course Title: Language, Mind and Brain

3. Per Week Lectures: (3+0+0+0) = 9

Duration of Course: Full Semester

4. Proposing Department/IDP: Humanities and Social Sciences

Other Departments/IDPs which may be interested in the proposed course:

Other faculty members interested in teaching the proposed course:

5. Proposing Instructor(s): Sh. Francis Monsang

6. Course Description:

A) Objectives:

The objective of this course is to provide students with knowledge of how the human mind and brain represent and process language. It also aims to address the following questions:

- a) How do we acquire knowledge?
- b) How is language produced and understood?
- c) Which areas of the brain play a vital role in the production and perception of speech?
- d) What happens to language when the brain is damaged?

B) Contents (preferably in the form of 5 to 10 broad titles):

Sl No.	Broad Title	Topics	Number of Lectures
1	Beginning concepts	What is language? Creativity of human language, language characteristics, non-human communication systems, language as distinct from speech, thought, and communication	5
2	Language, thought and culture	A relationship at the heart of psycholinguistics, theories regarding the dependence of thought and culture on language	5
3	Biological basis of language	Language is species specific, Behaviourist conflict (Materialism vs. Epiphenomenalism vs. Reductionism), Mentalist conflict (Empiricism's Intelligence vs. Rationalism's Innate Ideas), Chomskyan arguments for innate language ideas and the inadequacy of those arguments, Brain (brain structure, cerebral dominance) and	10

		language in the brain	
4	Language production and comprehension	Process of production, perception and comprehension, word recognition, the internallexicon, parsing and parsing strategies, sentence and discourse comprehensions, relationship betweencomprehension and production, language acquisition (innateness, behaviorism and cognitive theories)	10
5	Brain-language relationship (Brain pathology and linguistic aphasiology)	Cerebral dominance,lateralization, the discoveries of Paul Broca and Carl Wernicke, pathology and brain functions, bilingual brain, sign language,aphasia, dyslexia, semantic pragmatic disorders, autism, speech therapy.	10

**C) Pre-requisites:** NONE

**D) Short summary for including in the Courses of Study Booklet:**

This course aims to provide the students with an understanding of how language is represented and processed in the human mind and brain. It focuses on language as a system controlled by the brain that is different from but closely linked to the human mind. It covers topics such as the relationship between language, mind, and brain, the biological basis of language, language production, comprehension, language acquisition, etc. It also covers brain pathology and aphasiology.

## **7. Recommended books:**

### **Reference Books:**

Caplan, David(1987). *Neurolinguistics and Linguistic Aphasiology: An Introduction*.

CambridgeUniversity Press.

Caroll, David W. (2008). *Psychology of Language*. (5<sup>th</sup>ed.). Thomson Wadsworth,

Chomsky, Noam (2006). *Language and Mind*. Cambridge University Press.

Dabrowska, Ewa (2004). *Language, Mind and Brain*. Edinburgh University Press.

Fernández, Eva M.&Cairns, Helen S.(2010). *Fundamentals of Psycholinguistics*.

WILEY Blackwell.

Steinberg, Danny D. &Sciarini, Natalia V. (2006). *An Introduction to Psycholinguistics*.

(2<sup>nd</sup>ed.). Pearson.

Traxler, Matthew J. (2023). *Introduction to Psycholinguistics: Understanding Language*

*Science* (2<sup>nd</sup>ed.). WILEY Blackwell.

**8. Any other remarks:**

The course is for undergraduates, and the course pedagogy involves lectures and discussion of research papers in the domains of language, mind, and brain.

Dated: 13.03.2024

Dated: March 13, 2024

Proposer: Sh. Francis Monsang

DUGC Convener: Suchitra Mathur

**The course is approved / not approved**

**Chairman, SUGC**

**Dated:** \_\_\_\_\_