

## Module Description

The ability to use language is a uniquely human one, so effortless that it is easy to forget the very complex psychological processes underlying its use. Psycholinguistics is the study of these processes. More specifically, it investigates the processes that take place in our minds when we use language as well as how these processes develop in children. Our knowledge about these processes in healthy individuals is also informed by studying language impairment, for example in patients who have sustained brain damage, or in children with atypical language development. In this module, we will be covering these three broad areas.

## Workload

This is a 4 MC module = 10 hours a week, allocated as 0-3-0-4-3 (Lecture, Tutorial, Lab, Project, Preparation)

## Instructor information

Dr. Nick Huang (“Nick” is fine)

Email	<a href="mailto:znhuang@nus.edu.sg">znhuang@nus.edu.sg</a>
Office	AS5, 05-05
Office hours	online, by appointment

Teaching assistant: Wang Yao ([wangyao@u.nus.edu](mailto:wangyao@u.nus.edu))

## Course assessment

**Class participation (15%):** We will set aside time in each class meeting for activities and discussion in breakout rooms. The goal here is to create opportunities for interaction and application of ideas. Students will receive a grade for each week, and for each student, I will drop the lowest three scores.

**Assignments (35%):** Students will complete 5 assignments (7% each), consisting of a mix of multiple choice, short-answer and/or short-essay questions. Each student must write up their own work, but you are strongly encouraged to discuss the questions with each other. If you work with someone else, be sure to indicate who you worked with on the assignment.

Assignments will be posted on LumiNUS the week before they are due. Assignments must be submitted by the start of class, unless otherwise stated.

**Essay (20%):** This is a short essay of about 1,000-1,500 words (but no penalty for longer essays). Students can either write about either (1) a psycholinguistic phenomenon that they have observed over the semester, or (2) a summary of a psycholinguistics paper, e.g. one that was cited in class.

**Project (30%):** Students will form groups to write one short article per group, about 2,000-3,000 words, describing key concepts and findings discussed in the module. These articles should be aimed at members of the general public. Members of a group will receive the same grade for their article.

More information about the essay and project will be provided in Week 2.

Assignments, essays, and projects should be submitted on LumiNUS.

### Class participation

This module will be conducted in person. Although I will make the course materials available on LumiNUS, I expect students to attend class every week and to participate actively.

Each week, students will form groups to discuss a set of questions relating to the week's topic. Each group will produce a document summarising their responses and submit it on LumiNUS, and submit it by the end of class.

### Late work

If you realise you cannot meet a deadline, let us know as soon as possible, unless it is a family, personal, or health emergency. Otherwise, there will be a 10% penalty for every day or part thereof.

### Module structure

All readings will be made available on LumiNUS. There is no textbook.

This module will be taught in person. We will meet one time a week, at 3 pm on Monday.

### Schedule (tentative)

Week	Date	Topic	Deadlines
1	8 Aug	Introduction, animal communication	
2	15 Aug	Statistical literacy, replication crisis, experiments	
3	22 Aug	Sound perception	Assignment 1
4	29 Aug	Lexical processing	Assignment 2
5	5 Sep	Sentence processing	
6	12 Sep	Language in the brain: methods, aphasia	Assignment 3
Recess			
7	26 Sep	Localising language in the brain + primate brain and communication (guest lecture by Dr. Loh Kep Kee, NUS Psych/McGill)	
8	3 Oct	Language production	
9	10 Oct	Language acquisition – introduction	Assignment 4
10	17 Oct	Language acquisition – sound and morphology	Assignment 5
11	24 Oct	<u>No class</u> (Deepavali)	
12	31 Oct	Language acquisition – syntax	Essay
13	7 Nov	Language acquisition – meaning; Wrap up	Final project

### Class attendance

Class attendance is expected. If you have to miss class, please let me know as soon as possible.

### General rules

#### Know the syllabus

If you have questions about how the module is managed, the schedule, requirements – consult this syllabus first.

## Feel free to collaborate, but submit your own work

You should feel free to discuss the course material and assignments with other students. Working with others is a great way to learn!

However, the work that you submit must be your own (except for the group project).

When submitting assignments and the essay, list the students who you worked with / discussed with, if any.

## No plagiarism

NUS Code of Student Conduct (Clause 4):

*The University takes a strict view of cheating in any form, deceptive fabrication, plagiarism and violation of intellectual property and copyright laws. Any student who is found to have engaged in such misconduct will be subject to disciplinary action by the University.*

For the purpose of this class, this means:

- Cite your sources. It's fine to refer to other sources, but always give them credit. Quote them if you are not confident of paraphrasing them in your own words.
- To repeat: You **must** write up your own work, even if you might have arrived at your conclusions after discussing the topic with someone else.

## Ask questions – don't be shy about asking for help

You should feel free to post questions on LumiNUS: Forum > Questions. I want you to learn something in this module and to do well. So, if you have questions, always let us know.

More general FASS resources:

- a) FASS Student Support team
  - a. Lynn Seah – [lynnseah@nus.edu.sg](mailto:lynnseah@nus.edu.sg)
  - b. Mark Tan – [mark.tan@nus.edu.sg](mailto:mark.tan@nus.edu.sg)
  - c. Tan Kai Lin – [kailin.tan@nus.edu.sg](mailto:kailin.tan@nus.edu.sg)
- b) Counselling Centre: <http://www.nus.edu.sg/uhc/>  
Email: [ucs@nus.edu.sg](mailto:ucs@nus.edu.sg)  
Telephone: (65) 6516 2376 (Counselling Centre Office Hours)  
(65) 6516 7777 (Lifeline NUS for life-threatening emergencies – 24 hours)  
(65) 1800 221 4444 (SOS Crisis Hotline – 24 hours)  
(65) 6874 1616 (NUS Campus Security – 24 hours)
- c) University-level Financial Aid: <http://www.nus.edu.sg/oam/financialaid/>  
Contact: <https://www.nus.edu.sg/oam/contact-us>  
Faculty-level Financial Aid: <https://myportal.nus.edu.sg/studentportal/fas/ug/financial-aid/scholarships-bursaries-financialaid.html>