

Linguistics 3701H: Language and the Mind

Instructor: Prof. William Schuler Date/time: TR 2:20-3:40 Course number: 32475

The course is an introduction to the psychological processes by which humans produce and understand sentences in conversation, the means by which these processes arise in the child, and their bases in the brain. It deals with the following topics (among others): (1) Speech Perception, the process of detecting distinct 'sounds' in speech signals; (2) Lexical Access, the process of 'looking up' words in a mental dictionary; (3) Syntactic Parsing, the process of discovering the structure of sentences; (4) Semantic Interpretation, the process of using syntactic structures, word meaning and general world knowledge to interpret what we hear; (5) Language Acquisition, the process by which a child becomes able to produce and understand sentences of his or her native language(s), (f) Neurolinguistics, the study of the way language functions are implemented in the brain.

GE: Social Science: Individuals and Groups. Cross-listed as Psych 3371