

Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur
Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

Proposal for a New Course

Course Title: Cognitive Science of Multilingualism

Course No.: CGS 622A

Proposer: Dr. Ark Verma

Units: 3 – 0 – 0 – 0

Prerequisite: None

Course Objectives

The course is aimed at introducing students to the cognitive consequences of knowing two or more than two languages. It will introduce students to the linguistic issues, psychological issues, neuroscience & impact of bilingualism on the organization of other cognitive functions as well.

Course Contents

a) Introduction to Bilingualism (4 Lectures)

Psycholinguistics and the study of Bilingualism and Multilingualism, Definitions and Types of Bilinguals. Basic Assumptions About Bilinguals and Multilinguals.

b) Second Language Acquisition (6 Lectures)

Acquisition of the second language: issues and challenges. Critical period hypothesis. Acquiring, phonology, morphology and syntax in the second language.

c) Perception & Comprehension in Bilinguals (6 Lectures)

Semantic & conceptual representations in bilinguals, about interlexical homographs, homophones, and cognates. Models of bilingual lexical access, models of bilingual word recognition in bilinguals, and sentence comprehension in two languages.

d) Topics in Bilingual Language Production (6 Lectures)

Models of monolingual and bilingual speech production. Selection & Lexicalization in Bilingual Speech Production. Experimental paradigms: Stroop Task, Picture Naming, Translation. Accents in non-native speakers.

e) Language Control in Bilinguals and Multilinguals (6 Lectures)

Language control as switching between two language systems; Activation and Deactivation of language subsystems. Language Control and Inhibition; Selective and Non-Selective Frameworks of Bilingual Language Control.

f) Neurobiology of Bilingualism (5 Lectures)

Neural bases of bilingualism, Neural changes in response to learning a second language, neural consequences of simultaneous vs. sequential bilingualism, neural re-organization & plasticity of networks involved in speaking in two languages, Bilingual aphasia.

g) Cognitive Consequences of Bilingualism (5 Lectures)

Cognitive Development in Bilingual children, Bilingual Memory, Influence of Bilingualism on Executive Functions, Influence of Bilingualism on Attention, Bilingualism & Thought.

h) Socio-linguistics of Bilingualism (4 Lectures)

The Bilingual & Monolingual Community, Language Maintenance, Language Shift & Reversing, Issues in Bilingual Education & Literacy Development, Bi-/Multilingualism in South Asia, Bilingualism in the Global Media & Advertising.

Core Readings :

- Handbook of Bilingualism: Psycholinguistic Approaches (2005) Edited by Judith F. Kroll & Annette M. B. de Groot.
- The Handbook of Bilingualism and Multilingualism (2013) Edited by Tej K. Bhatia & William C. Ritchie.

Supplementary Readings:

Selected journal articles will be used in the class for reference & discussions from the following journals

- Journal of Experimental Psychology
- Cognitive Psychology
- Bilingualism: Language & Cognition
- NeuroImage
- Journal of Experimental Child Psychology
- Developmental Review
- International Journal of Bilingualism
- International Journal of Bilingual Education & Bilingualism

Signature of the proposer

(Ark Verma)

Date:

**This course is
APPROVED/NOT APPROVED**

Convener, DPGC, CGS

This course is APPROVED/NOT APPROVED

Chairman, SPGC