Case Studies: Languages and Mind (20662)

Degree: Degree in Applied Languages
Year: First
Term: Third
ECTS credit value: 4
Total student study time (hours): 100
Course type: Compulsory
Language of instruction: English

1. General presentation

This course introduces students to the central issues of mind-related aspects of linguistic development. Students will analyze linguistic development in diverse age groups, circumstances, and contexts, and apply theories on the relationship between language and cognition to practical language-use and spoken-language situations. This course will lay the foundations for two specialized profile options that undergraduate Applied Languages students may focus on: languages in educational settings (specifically, language acquisition and teaching), and language pathologies.

Language pathologies in adults and children will be portrayed and dealt with from a variety of first, second, and foreign language-acquisition standpoints, including monolingual, bilingual, trilingual and multilingual situations. Students will gain awareness of these phenomena by observing and reflecting upon specific cases.

The course will be organized in two segments. The first will focus on the relationship between cognitive language processes and the new acquisition contexts currently emerging in Europe (specifically contexts of immersion and semi-immersion). The second segment addresses pathological language situations to establish a link between language and the brain.

2. Content

PART ONE (C. Pérez-Vidal)
Linguistic skills and development: Cognitive processes and contexts. Differences among individuals.

Case study I: Language in a bilingual family or social context. *(age factors, initial skills, contact variables, the transfer of language and skills, and other problems.)*
Case study II: Language and Context: bilingual instruction or semi-immersion. (*The reasons behind their emergence, how and when they take place, existing problems and possible solutions.)*

PART TWO (S. Martínez-Ferreiro)
Language and speech pathologies: genetic, development-related, acquired, and degenerative deficits

Case study I: Brain damage in adults: Agrammatism study.
Case study II: Brain damage in children: Specific Language Impairment (SLI) study.