

Cognition, Language & Communication

Lecturer: Jelle Zuidema, zuidema@uva.nl, Science Park 107, room 2.45

TA: Raquel Alhama, rgalhama@gmail.com, Science Park 107, room 2.25

Course website: <http://www.illc.uva.nl/laco/clas/clc14>

Office hours: make an appointment via <http://wzuidema.youcanbook.me>

All animals communicate, but only humans have language. In this course we investigate how human language relates to non-linguistic and non-human communication, and how it relates to other cognitive functions. Is our ability to learn and process language a consequence of advanced cognitive abilities? Or does language in fact facilitate advanced reasoning, music, pattern recognition and categorization? We will approach these questions by looking at experimental and modelling work that tries to identify and explain differences between human and animal communicative and cognitive abilities, with special attention for artificial language learning experiments and the hierarchical structure of natural language.

- Grading: 25% assignments/participation + 15% presentation (group) + 60% exam
- Assignments are due every Monday. Readings are due on the day they are mentioned in the schedule; pdf's will be available from the course website.

Resit

Resit will consist of an exam and additional homework assignment.

Fraude and plagiarism

<http://abc.uva.nl/education/information-for-current-students/rules-and-regulations/rules-and-regulations.html>

Blackboard/Sakai

Blackboard is not used for this course except for posting a version of this hand-out which is convenient for finding the literature.

Mon 8 Sep	13:00 - 15:00		Evolutionary motivation, language & animal communication	SP D1.110
Fri 12 Sep	09:00 - 11:00	Hockett, 1960 Hauser et al. 2014	Functions of language & communication, Shannon	SP G3.13
	14:00 - 15:30		Discussion with Charles Yang	OMHP:F001
Mon 15 Sep	13:00 - 15:00	Shannon, 1948: pp1-8	Models of sequences	SP B0.207
Thu 18 Sep	15:00 - 17:00	t.b.a.	computer lab: Markov models and ngrams with R	SP F2.04
Mon 22 Sep	13:00 - 15:00	Assignment 1	Models of sequences (ctd).	SP G3.13
Thu 25 Sep	15:00 - 17:00	Hammond, 2006	computer lab: experiment, dataprocessing (ctd.)	SP B1.24FG
Mon 29 Sep	13:00 - 15:00	Chomsky, 1957:pp11-48 Assignment 2	Discussion Chomsky; lecture Artificial Language Learning	SP G3.13
Thu 2 Oct	15:00 - 17:00	Saffran et al. 1996; Marcus et al. 1998; Fitch & Hauser, 2004	Artificial Language Learning (ctd.); guest lecture (t.b.c.)	SP G2.02
Mon 6 Oct	13:00 - 15:00	Marcus et al. 2007; Van Heijningen et al.'09; Zuidema, 2013a Assignment 3	Discussion ALL.; Lecture Hierarchical structure in language, music, planning	SP B0.207
Wed 8 Oct	09:00 - 11:00	t.b.a.	Hierarchical structure (ctd.) guest lecture (t.b.c.)	SP B0.207
Mon 13 Oct	13:00 - 15:00	Assignment 4	Student presentations	SP B0.207
Thu 16 Oct	15:00 - 17:00	Zuidema 2013b	Discussion: Evolution of CLC; Closing Lecture	SP G3.13
Mon 20 Oct	09:00 - 12:15		Exam (3 hours)	SP B0.201

References

Most papers are available from the course website:

<http://www.illc.uva.nl/laco/clas/clc14>

Mike Hammond (2006), Probabilistic Language Models (unpublished chapter); available from <http://dingo.sbs.arizona.edu/~hammond/ling178-sp06/mathCh8.pdf>