



Bachelor's courses Faculty of Humanities

VU University Amsterdam - Student- & Onderwijszaken - Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit - 2019-2020

Spoken Language and Gesture

Course code	L_ETBACIW204 ()
Period	Period 4
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculty of Humanities
Coordinator	prof. dr. A.J. Cienki
Examinator	prof. dr. A.J. Cienki
Teaching staff	prof. dr. A.J. Cienki
Teaching method(s)	Lecture, Seminar
Level	200

Course objective

Goals of the course: In this course, you will learn how to discuss current research on language and communication in a critical and constructive fashion; learn how to analyze the linguistic properties of spoken discourse and the ways in which speakers' gestures relate to them; and in the process, you will improve your skills in written and oral presentation in English.

Course content

Course contents: The course concerns several themes, which are interrelated with each other. One has to do with how we structure our talk and our co-verbal behavior as units on different levels of complexity. Another is how we use both speech and gesture to express not only our ideas about the physical world and abstract concepts (both describing and depicting them), but also our stances towards these ideas. This brings us to the point that face-to-face interaction with speech and gesture can involve alignment and adaptation in real time of our ideas, our attitudes towards those ideas (our "positions", in different senses of that word), and our ways of expressing them.

Form of tuition

Course structure: Lectures combined with presentations by students and occasional data analysis sessions (3 meetings x 2 hours each per week).

Type of assessment

Forms of assessment: Presentations (30%), essays (55%), and attendance and class participation (15%). The final grade will be a total of all the parts. All components must be graded at least 5,5. Anyone failing the course may resit only the portion(s) failed.

Course reading

Readings: Journal articles and book chapters, which will be made available to students.

Entry requirements

Prerequisites: Students majoring in Communication and Information Studies (CIS) must have successfully completed "English: International Communication", "Academic English CIS-L&S Grammar", and "Academic English CIS-L&S Writing". Other students must have sufficient background in the study of language and communication and sufficient proficiency in academic English to engage in active discussion and writing about the analysis of English.

Target group

Target audience: The course is required for second-year students majoring in CIS and following either the track in English Language and Communication Studies or the one on Language Learning and Language Teaching. It may also be taken as part of a premaster's program for the MA track in Multimodal Communication. The module is also open for exchange students, but they must have sufficient background in the study of language and communication and sufficient proficiency in academic English to engage in active discussion and writing about the analysis of English.