

Human Discourse Processing

Course Syllabus

Lecturer: Dr. Debopam Das

Time: Tuesdays, 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Summer Semester 2018

Location: House 14, Room 0.32

Module: VM7

Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to how discourse is processed by humans. Discourse is defined as the language above the level of sentence and also the use of language in context. In this course, we will learn about a wide range of phenomena included in the study of discourse processing from linguistic and psycholinguistic points of view. Students will read original and recent work in these areas. They will also examine different forms of discourse and analyze important aspects of human discourse processing.

Course Objectives:

At the end of the course, students will be familiar with numerous issues in the study of human discourse processing. The classes will take the form of seminars and include engaging discussions on significant topics in the field. The students will be evaluated based on their performance in a number of activities: writing summaries and reviews, conducting a small project, and writing (and presenting) a term paper based on the project.

Topics to be covered:

- What is discourse?
- What is discourse processing?
- Cohesion and coherence
 - How does a text differ from a ‘non-text’?
- Factors in discourse processing
 - Discourse content
 - Discourse participants
- Theories and models of discourse processes
- Coherence relations and discourse structure
- Discourse marker and discourse processing
- And many others

Course Grade

Component	Weight
Assignments	Will NOT be graded
Summary writing	15%
Review writing	15%
Project	20%
Presentation	10%
Final paper	40%
TOTAL	100%

Meeting dates:

Week	Date	Note
1	April 10	
2	April 17	
3	April 24	
-	May 1	Holiday - No class
-	May 8	Conference trip - No class
4	May 15	
5	May 22	
6	May 29	
7	June 5	
8	June 12	
9	June 19	
10	June 26	
11	July 3	
12	July 10	
13	July 17	

Required readings (articles, book chapters, etc.) will be available online on the Moodle course page.