COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Language production is an area of psycholinguistics that studies how speakers turn messages into utterances. Theories of language production propose concrete mechanisms that associate prelinguistic messages with lexical entries and grammatical functions, and in turn associate grammatical functions and lexical entries with sentence trees and actual words. Words in complete sentences are also processed by a phonological component that encodes phonological representations similar to the ones found in generative phonology, and then the result of this encoding is converted to a speech plan for speaking. Studying language production is therefore a good way of putting to use many of the central concepts from linguistic science in the study of a behavior that unfolds in real time.

This course will investigate the empirical and theoretical issues raised by language production research. In particular, we will review the principal empirical findings in this research, including a set of psychological effects found in speech errors and different kinds of priming effects. We will use this evidence as a way of assessing some of the principal debates that arise in production research, like the role of linguistic categories and processes in production behavior, symbolic vs subsymbolic (=connectionist networks) models, and serial vs. parallel processing of language. Students taking this class will establish foundations in this research area by reading the original literature that documents these empirical and theoretical results. The literature reviews from these readings will lead to a project proposal (not a term paper) that motivates a research objective that has been understudied in the literature and also sketches some plausible ways of investigating it.

READING:
There is no textbook for language production, so all of the readings will be drawn from book chapters and journal articles which are either available on-line or will be made available through a reserve system.

GRADING:
- Literature reviews (3 x10%): 30%
- 2 presentations (2x20%): 40%
- Final project proposal: 30%

Students should familiarize themselves with the Department's Standards on Class Management and Student Responsibilities at http://www.sfu.ca/linguistics/undergraduate/student-resources/department-standards.html#main_content_text

Please note that a grade of “FD” may be assigned as a penalty for academic dishonesty.

All student requests for accommodations for their religious practices must be made in writing by the end of the first week of classes or no later than one week after a student adds a course.

Students requiring accommodations as a result of a disability must contact the Centre for Students with Disabilities (778-782-3112 or csdo@sfu.ca).