

## LANGUAGE, POWER & DEVELOPMENT

### Lecturer

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### Course Description

This course focuses on the relationship between LANGUAGE (the ability to think *clearly* and express your thoughts *precisely*), POWER (ability to *influence* others), and personal / national DEVELOPMENT.

Emphasis is placed on the identification and management of the perception process, stages in our cognitive development, the influence of our emotions and often unwarranted assumptions on our thinking, enculturation, and language in various forms of communication. We will discuss the concept of *critical thinking* and sharpen our skills by reviewing the basic principles of inductive and deductive logic, fallacious reasoning, and problem-solving techniques.

Finally, we will consider the role of Language and Language Policy in the national development of a multicultural society, such as Papua New Guinea.

### Objective

This course aims to improve students' problem-solving skills through 'mindfulness' and logical reasoning/ critical thinking.

### Outcomes

A deeper understanding of the concepts of Language, Power and Development, as well as of the correlation between them, you will gain confidence in your ability to tackle Life's problems through the use of critical thinking.

### Contact

60 hrs (2 lectures and 1 tutorial per week)

### Prerequisites

 None

### Assessment

Continuous assessment: 60 % [One Practical Assignment (10%), 4 tutorial assignments (10 % each), and attendance (10%)]

Final examination - 40 %

### Recommended Texts

Handouts and a limited number of lecture notes will be provided for sharing in class. Last year's lecture notes are available on my website <http://www.templeok.com>  
Gary R. Kirby and Jeffrey R. Goodpaster: *Thinking* (1999) (excerpts posted on my website [www.templeok.com](http://www.templeok.com) )

**Lecture Schedule**

Week 1	<b>Organizational Matters</b> Introduction to the Course: Concepts of Language, Power, and Development; Focus on the relationship between Language and Thought
Week 2	<b>I. Language</b> What is human language? How is it different from animal ‘languages’? Every word of Language is already a generalization – an act of Thought. Indeterminacy of meaning; Ambiguity (Lexical & Structural)
Week 3	<b>What is “Thinking”?</b> David Hume’s principle associations “Natural” Thinking vs. Critical Thinking Critical thinking in the context of general cognitive development (Piaget’s 4 stages of cognitive development).
Week 4	<b>Mechanics of Language-Thought: Synthesis &amp; Analysis</b> Words acquire their true meaning in the nexus of the proposition/ sentence. Parts of Speech: Functions of Words in the Sentence Two Principles of English Sentence Structure: Nexus & Modification Connecting Rod: the Finite Verb
Week 5	<b>The Sensing – Thinking Connection</b> Better sensing = better thinking? The Power of Our Senses: to Inform, and to Deceive <b>Perceptions &amp; Critical Thinking</b> Perceptual blocks to clear and critical thinking: personal barriers, sensing, and physiology
Week 6	<b>Expectations, Assumptions &amp; Emotions in Critical Thinking</b> Enculturation Ego Defenses: Rationalization, Denial, and Projection
Week 7	<b>Theories of Language-Thought Relationship</b> Linguistic Determinism Linguistic Relativism The Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis
Week 8	<b>II. Power</b> <b>Persuasion and Influence</b> What is Argument? General Rules Constructing a Logical Argument: Persuasive Logic Message Characteristics: Persuasive Style <b>Inductive and Deductive Arguments</b>
Week 9	<b>Inductive Arguments:</b> Arguments by Example Arguments by Analogy Arguments from Authority Arguments about Causes

Week 10	<p>Deductive Arguments: Syllogism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Modus Ponens</li> <li>Modus Tollens</li> <li>Hypothetical Syllogism</li> <li>Disjunctive Syllogism</li> <li>Dilemma</li> </ul>
Week 11	<p>Logical Fallacies I: What is a Logical Fallacy?</p> <p>Formal &amp; Informal Fallacies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formal / Deductive Fallacies</li> <li>Informal / Inductive Fallacies</li> <li>Logical &amp; Factual Errors</li> </ul>
Week 12	<p>Logical Fallacies II: Types/ Classes of Fallacies</p> <p>Fallacies of Relevance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ad Hominem (Personal Attack)</li> <li>Bandwagon Fallacy</li> <li>Fallacist's Fallacy</li> <li>Fallacy of Composition</li> <li>Fallacy of Division</li> <li>Gambler's Fallacy</li> <li>Genetic Fallacy</li> <li>Irrelevant Appeals</li> <li>Appeal to Antiquity / Tradition</li> <li>Appeal to Authority</li> <li>Appeal to Consequences</li> <li>Appeal to Force</li> <li>Appeal to Novelty</li> <li>Appeal to Pity</li> <li>Appeal to Popularity</li> <li>Appeal to Poverty</li> <li>Appeal to Wealth</li> <li>Moralistic Fallacy</li> <li>Naturalistic Fallacy</li> <li>Red Herring</li> <li>Weak Analogy</li> </ul> <p>Fallacies of Ambiguity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accent Fallacies</li> <li>Equivocation Fallacy</li> <li>Straw Man Fallacy</li> </ul> <p>Fallacies of Presumption</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Affirming the Consequent</li> <li>Arguing from Ignorance</li> <li>Begging the Question / Circular Reasoning</li> <li>Complex Question Fallacy</li> <li>Cum Hoc Fallacy</li> <li>False Dilemma / Bifurcation Fallacy</li> <li>Hasty Generalisation Fallacy</li> <li>'No True Scotsman' Fallacy</li> <li>Post Hoc Fallacy</li> <li>Slippery Slope Fallacy</li> <li>Sweeping Generalisation Fallacy</li> <li>Subjectivist Fallacy</li> <li>Tu Quoque Fallacy</li> </ul>
Week 13	<p>Kinds of Power</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coercive Power (when people are <i>forced</i> to obey)</li> <li>Reward Power (when one has something that others want)</li> <li>Legitimate Power (authority by status/ social hierarchy /position)</li> </ul>

	Referent Power (personal charisma, charm, influence, fame) Expert Power (power of knowledge)
Week 14	<b>III. Development</b> Language Policy & Social Development Language Planning & Policy in PNG: A Historical Overview Educational Reform Tok Pisin & Tok Ples Education The Way Forward
Week 15	<b>Revision</b>