LING 110 — Language and Thought

**Timetable:** TWF, 1:30 to 2:20 p.m. (PST), by Zoom Meeting  
**Instructor:** Dave McKercher  
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**Course Description:** Does the language we speak control or influence the way we think? Does language help us think? This course explores the Whorfian Hypothesis by examining the psycholinguistic evidence for relationships between language and thought. Along the way, we will discuss similarities and differences among natural human languages, and with other animal communication systems.

**Assignments:**
- Six “Reaction Papers” to course readings (30%)
- Four assignments related to lectures and readings (40%)
- Final test (30%)

**Reading List:**
- Selections from *The Stuff of Thought*, by Steven Pinker (required textbook)  
- Several journal articles and other readings (available on Brightspace)  
- A chapter from *Jokes and the Linguistic Mind*, by Debra Aarons (on Bright)  
- A chapter from *The Language Hoax*, by John McWhorter (on Bright)