Course: HH/PSYC 3290 3.0 M -- Psycholinguistics  

Term: Winter 2008

Course Webpage: http://www.psych.yorku.ca/gigi/3290Home.htm

Prerequisite/Corequisites: AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 1010 6.00 (Introduction to Psychology) or LING 1000  
Cross-listed as LING 3220 3.00  
Course credit exclusion: PSYC 3250 3.0

Course Instructor: Gigi Luk  
Tel: 416-736-2100 Ext: 30562  
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Email: gigi@yorku.ca  
Office hours: Mondays, 12:00 – 1:00p.m.

Teaching Assistant: Mirisse Foroughe  
Tel: TBA  
Office: 057 BSB  
Email: mirisse@yorku.ca  
Office hour: by appointment

Time and Location

Lectures: Mondays 8:30 – 11:30a.m.  
VH 1152 A

Course Description

Language use is one of the most systematic behaviour that humans carry out everyday. This course introduces different aspects of language from a psychological perspective. Instead of emphasizing linguistic structures, this course focuses on how humans develop the skills to perceive speech sounds, building a mental dictionary, and processing sentences. Moreover, relationships between brain and language, alternative language processing and language disorders are also discussed.

Organization of the Course

Course format includes formal lectures and discussion of the lecture materials. Required readings are essential to each lecture presented. The course director will present updated empirical findings along the lines of each lecture theme. Readings, lectures and assignments will introduce students to the scientific study of language and to stimulate critical thinking about the different faces of language.

Course Learning Objectives

(1) Statement of the purpose:  
The purpose of this course is to develop students’ interests in studying one of the most systematic human behaviour. The main objective is to introduce students to the diverse disciplines of studying language. This course will guide students to identify different aspects of language and relate appropriate scientific methods to examine these aspects.
(2) Specific learning objectives of the course:

- Acknowledge specific areas in studying language and relate appropriate scientific methods to assess language
- Apply different methods to examine language use across different populations
- Develop critical reading and understanding skills pertaining to concepts and theories in language study
- Formulate and propose a research question based on one of the lectured topics

Course Text


Additional readings are listed in the Reading List section.

Evaluation

The final grade for the course will be based on the following items weighted as indicated:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Due date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading report:</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>February 4, 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term test:</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>February 25, 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus abstract:</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>March 3, 2008</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Last day to drop course without receiving a grade</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>March 7, 2008</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper:</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>April 3, 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Examination:</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>April exam period</td>
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Reading Report (2-3 pages, doubled-spaced):
Write a summary based on one of the recent empirical articles chosen from the reading list (either required or optional). The paper should answer the following questions:

1. What are the previous findings reported in the target article?
2. What is the major research question in the articles?
3. Describe the main experimental task(s).
4. Describe the results pertaining to the research question identified in Q. 2.
5. What is the general conclusion?
6. Suggest one future research direction.

Bonus abstract:
Submit a 150-word abstract for the proposed research paper.

Research Paper (10-12 pages, doubled-spaced):
Choose a topic covered in the lecture outline, review the relevant literature and suggest a research question for further investigation.

Term Test and Final Examination:
Both components consist of definition, short answers and essays. Test and exam are based on text, assigned readings and lectures.
Grading, Assignment Submission, Lateness Penalties and Missed Tests

Grading: The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and tests will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 90, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.) (For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar - http://calendars.registrar.yorku.ca/calendars/2007-2008/ASrules/grading_system.htm)

Students may take a limited number of courses for degree credit on an ungraded (pass/fail) basis. For full information on this option see Alternative Grading Option in the Faculty of Health section of the Undergraduate Calendar (http://calendars.registrar.yorku.ca/calendars/2007-2008/ASrules/grading_system.htm)

Assignment Submission: Proper academic performance depends on students doing their work not only well, but on time. Accordingly, assignments for this course must be received on the due date specified for the assignment. Assignments are to be handed in by the end of the lecture on the scheduled due dates.

Lateness Penalty: Assignments received later than the due date will be penalized (10% deduction per day after the due date). Exceptions to the lateness penalty for valid reasons such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., may be entertained by the Course Instructor but will require supporting documentation (e.g., a doctor’s letter).

Missed Tests: If missed a test, students are required to contact the course director (preferably by email) within 48 hours of the scheduled test. Students with a documented reason for missing a course test, such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., which is confirmed by supporting documentation (e.g., doctor’s letter) may request accommodation from the Course Instructor. Further extensions or accommodation will require students to submit a formal petition to the Faculty.

For departmental policy on missed test, please check the following: http://www.yorku.ca/health/psyc/policies/missed_tests_day.htm

IMPORTANT COURSE INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information, available on the Senate Committee on Curriculum & Academic Standards webpage (see Reports, Initiatives, Documents) - http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/senate_ete_main_pages/ccas.htm

- York’s Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures/Academic Integrity Website
- Ethics Review Process for research involving human participants
- Course requirement accommodation for students with disabilities, including physical, medical, systemic, learning and psychiatric disabilities
- Student Conduct Standards
- Religious Observance Accommodation
## Lecture Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 7</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 14</td>
<td>Development of Speech Perception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 21</td>
<td>When letters combine: Building Words and Constructing a Mental Dictionary</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 28</td>
<td>Accessing a Mental Dictionary</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>February 4</strong></td>
<td><strong>Reading Report due (20%)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>When Words Combine: Sentence Processing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 11</td>
<td>Reading Week (no class)</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 18</td>
<td>Family Day (no class)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>February 25</strong></td>
<td><strong>Term Test (25%) + APA style workshop (by Mirisse)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 3</td>
<td>The Meaning of Meaning</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>March 7</strong></td>
<td><strong>Last day to drop course without receiving a grade</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>March 10</strong></td>
<td><strong>Bonus: 150-word Abstract of Essay Topic (3%)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Hardware of Language Processing (Brain and Language)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 17</td>
<td>When the Hardware and/or Software fail…. (Language Disorders)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 24</td>
<td>Alternative Language Processing (Bilingualism &amp; Sign Language)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 31</td>
<td>Language Theories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Formalist, Functionalist and Evolution)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>April 3</strong></td>
<td><strong>Research Paper due (30%)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Labyrinth of Studying Language</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Guest Lecture by Dr. Kathleen Peets &amp; Dr. Sylvain Moreno</td>
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| April Exam period | Final exam (25%) |
Reading List

Introduction (January 7)
Required:
1. Chapter 1
Optional:

Development of Speech Perception (January 14)
Required:
1. Chapters 2 and 3
Optional:

When Letters Combine: Building Words and Constructing a Mental Dictionary (January 21)
Required:
1. Chapters 4 and 5
Optional:
Accessing a Mental Dictionary (January 28)

Required:
1. Chapter 6

Optional:

When Words Combine: Sentence Processing (February 4)

Required:
1. Chapters 7 and 8

Optional:

The Meaning of Meaning (March 3)

Required:
1. Chapters 9 and 11

Optional:

The Meaning of Meaning (March 3 -- continued)


**The Hardware of Language Processing (March 10)**

**Required:**

1. Chapter 13

**Optional:**

When the Hardware and/or Software fail… (March 17)

Required:
1. Chapters 12 and 14

Optional:
   Chapter 1: What is dyslexia? (pp. 1-13) & Chapter 2: The definition of dyslexia. (pp. 14-28)
   [Frost: RJ 496 A5 S65 2000]
   [Steacie: RC 341 C693 2003]

Alternative Language Processing (March 24)

Required:
   [Scott: P 115.2 B53 2001]
   [Scott: P 117 E46 2002]

Optional:

Language Theories (March 31)
Required:

Optional:
   [Scott: P 118 B695 1983]