Course: GL/PSYC 3640 3.0 A -- Psychological Studies of Language  Term: Fall 2007

Course Webpage: http://www.psych.yorku.ca/gigi/3640Home.htm

Prerequisite / Co-requisite: GL/PSYC 2510 6.00 (Introduction to Psychology) or equivalent
Cross-listed as GL/NATS 3640 3.00 and GL/LIN 3640 3.00

Course Instructor: Gigi Luk
416-736-2100 Ext: 88523
YH 163 B
gigi@yorku.ca  Office hours: Tuesdays, 12:00 – 1:00p.m.

Time and Location
Lectures  Tuesdays 9a.m. – 12:00p.m.  YH A107

Course Description
Language use is one of the most systematic behaviour that humans carry out everyday. This course introduces different aspects of language from the psychology perspective. Instead of emphasizing on linguistic structures, this course focuses on how human develops 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 include 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>October 16, 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term test:</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>October 23, 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus abstract:</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>November 6, 2007</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last day to drop course without receiving a grade</td>
<td></td>
<td>November 9, 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper:</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>November 27, 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Examination:</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>December 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 are 3-hour long, consists of definition, short answers and essays. Test and exam are based on text, assigned readings and lecture materials.

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/pdfs/ug2007cal/UGCAL07-08glendon-rules.pdf -- Under Grading System” on p. 420)
Grading (continues): 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 Glendon section of the Undergraduate Calendar:

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. 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.

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_cte_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>September 11</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 18</td>
<td>Development of Speech Perception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 25</td>
<td>When letters combine: Building Words and Constructing a Mental Dictionary</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 2</td>
<td>Accessing a Mental Dictionary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 9</td>
<td>When Words Combine: Sentence Processing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>October 16</strong></td>
<td><strong>Reading Report due (20%)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>How Words are Represented in Written Forms</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>October 23</strong></td>
<td><strong>Term Test (20%) + Library workshop</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>October 30</td>
<td>The Hardware of Language Processing (Brain and Language)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>November 6</strong></td>
<td><strong>Bonus: 150-word Abstract of Essay Topic (3%)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>When the Hardware and/or Software fail….(Language Disorders)</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 9</td>
<td><strong>Last day to drop course without receiving a grade</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 13</td>
<td>Alternative Language Processing (Bilingualism &amp; Sign Language)</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 20</td>
<td>Language Theories (Formalist, Functionalist and Evolution)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>November 27</strong></td>
<td><strong>Research Paper due (35%)</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</td>
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<tr>
<td>December Exam period</td>
<td><strong>Final exam (25%)</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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Reading List

Introduction (September 11)

Required:
1. Chapter 1

Optional:
   [Scott-Reserve: P 118 D443 1999 and Frost Course Reserve]

Development of Speech Perception (September 18)

Required:
1. Chapters 2 and 3

Optional:

When Letters Combine: Building Words and Constructing a Mental Dictionary (September 25)

Required:
1. Chapters 4 and 5

Optional:
Accessing a Mental Dictionary (October 2)

Required:
1. Chapter 6

Optional:

When Words Combine: Sentence Processing (October 9)

Required:
1. Chapters 7 and 8

Optional:

How Words are Represented in Written Forms (October 16)

Required:
1. Chapters 9 and 11

Optional:


How Words are Represented in Written Forms (October 16 -- continued)

The Hardware of Language Processing (October 30)
Required:
1. Chapters 10 & 13
Optional:

When the Hardware and/or Software fail… (November 6)
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]
Alternative Language Processing (November 13)

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

Optional:

Language Theories (November 20)

Required:

Optional:
   [Scott: P 118 B695 1983]