

## PSYCHOLOGY3UU3: The Psychology of Language, Winter 2009

**Instructor:** Dr. Karin R. Humphreys

**Email:** Psych3UU3prof@cogsci.mcmaster.ca (**preferred contact method**);

You MUST email me from your McMaster email account, otherwise it will likely be spam filtered and I will never even see it.

**Phone:** 905 525-9140 x23011

**Office:** Psych Room 410

**Office Hours:** By appointment.

**TAs:** Johanna Lake <lakejk@mcmaster.ca>, Peter Jansen <jansenpa@mcmaster.ca>, Nicole Folland <follanna@mcmaster.ca>

**Office Hours:** By appointment; Most questions can best be asked and answered via WebCT

**Lectures:** Mondays, 7-10pm, Hamilton Hall/109

**WebCT:** The course website is available to registered students by logging into WebCT.

<http://webct.mcmaster.ca>

You will need to learn how to use WebCT to access the course content, announcements, and discussions. All Powerpoint slides from the lectures will be made available on WebCT only after the lectures, as pdfs. It is your responsibility to keep up to date with class announcements made on WebCT

### **Course objectives and content:**

In this course you will be introduced to the major themes in the Psychology of Language, looking at the comprehension, production and representation of language from an experimental perspective.

### **Required Text:**

The Psychology of Language: From Data to Theory by Trevor Harley. EITHER the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> edition is acceptable.

All chapters except Chapter 4 will be covered.

### **Assessment:**

Midterm 1: 30%; Feb 9 (in class, short essay format)

Final Exam: 40%; (in exam period, short essay format; 30% part 2; 10% cumulative)

Paper: 10%; receive March 9; due March 23, at the start of class (essay format)

Weekly reading summaries and questions: 20% (=10 weeks \*(1% summary + 1% questions))

### **Exams:**

For exams, you are responsible for ALL the material covered in lectures, the assigned chapters from the textbook and the assigned readings.

Midterm 1 will be in the regular class time and place, and cover the material up until and including February 2, including readings 1-4, and Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 & 8. You will have to answer 5 questions worth 6 marks each, from a set of approximately 8 questions. Your answers should be approximately 1 page each.

The final exam will be in the exam period, scheduled by the registrar, and consist of

a) 5 questions worth 6 marks each, from a set of approximately 8 questions, covering material from the second half of the class, from February 23 up until and including April 6, including readings 5-10,

b) 2 questions worth 5 marks each, that will cover the entire course.

Your answers should be approximately 1 page each.

### **Weekly Readings:**

An article from the primary literature will be assigned for each week. (Listings will be posted on WebCT) For each reading you are required to

1) write a summary of the article that is to be no longer than one page (single spaced) (1%)

2) write down (at least) THREE questions you have about the article (1%)

EACH SUMMARY AND QUESTIONS IS DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS. While these marks are given mainly for completion of the assignments, and most people should be able to receive full marks for all weeks, marks *will* be deducted for careless or thoughtless work. Please don't use more paper than necessary – no cover sheet is needed. One double-sided piece of paper is fine. Use a standard 12 pt font, like Times New Roman.

**Paper:**

Details of the paper (10%) will be announced at a later date, but it will be a short paper (approx 4 pages) that will require you to pull together several elements of the course in an analytic way. No library research is required, only class material needs to be used. The topic will be announced in class and on WebCT March 10, and the paper will be due in class March 24.

**Tentative Outline of Topics**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Textbook Chapter</b>	<b>Due</b>
Jan 5	Intro	1, 2	
Jan 12	Foundations	3	Summary 1
Jan 19	Bilingualism	5	Summary 2
Jan 26	Vis word recog, Reading	6, 7	Summary 3
Feb 2	Spoken word recognition	8	Summary 4
Feb 9	Midterm 1		
Feb 16	NO CLASS READING WEEK		
Feb 23	Sentence processing	9	Summary 5
March 2	Word meaning	10	Summary 6
March 9	Comprehension	11	Summary 7
March 16	Production (phonological)	12	Summary 8
March 23	Production (syntactic)	12	Summary 9; Paper
March 30	Systems, Directions	13	Summary 10
April 6	Directions, Applications	14	

**Changes in course requirements:** Details of the course requirements may be subject to change. If requirements are altered, a revised course outline will be posted on the webpage and announced in class. The instructor reserves the right to assign grade cutoffs.

**Special Needs:** If you have special needs please contact the instructor so accommodations can be made.

**Academic Integrity Policy** Please be aware of the University Academic Integrity Policy. Cases of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to: copying or the use of unauthorized aids in tests, examinations and laboratory reports; plagiarism, i.e., the submission of work that is not one's own; aiding and abetting another student's dishonesty giving false information for the purposes of gaining admission or credit; giving false information for the purposes of obtaining deferred examinations or extension of deadlines; and/or forging or falsifying McMaster University documents. Students who infringe on the resolutions of the University Academic Integrity policy will be treated according to the published policy.

**Missed Exams:** All excuses MUST be submitted through the office of the Associate Dean of your faculty/program. It is then also your responsibility to speak with the instructor as soon as possible.