Psychology 3U03 - Psychology of Reading

Fall Session 2008 Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: 1:30 - 2:20

Professor: Dr. Betty Ann Levy - Room 103, Psychology Building, Extension 23019 at 905- 525-9140

Office hours: by appointment, contact me through e-mail: Levy@McMaster.CA

NOTE: NO LONG DISTANCE CALLS WILL BE RETURNED

Readings: The required readings are listed at the end of this outline. All required readings are available as a Coursepack for Psychology 3U03 in the bookstore.

Course Objective: In Psychology 2H3 you were introduced to many of the important concepts in information processing. Some of the same problems and models will be examined in greater depth in Psychology 3U03, but here they will be related to recent developments in the study of reading. Emphasis will be on theory and research to illustrate major problems in understanding how language is encoded and retrieved to be used during reading.

The course is oriented to those with a theoretical and empirical interest, but some practical applications will be examined. Learning to research a topic and write a research review is an important aspect of the course.

Evaluation: 1) 50min. test - Monday, October 6th 20%
2) 50 min. test - Thursday, October 30th 20%
3) Final exam - to be scheduled in the examination period 35%
4) Research paper - due THURSDAY, November 13th - FINAL DRAFT 25%

Note: To meet the grading system requirements your final percentage will be converted to a letter grade, according to the following scheme:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>63-66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>57-59</td>
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<tr>
<td>73-76</td>
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<td>53-56</td>
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<td>70-72</td>
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<td>50-52</td>
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<td>0-49</td>
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The instructor reserves the right to adjust final marks up or down, on an individual basis, in the light of special circumstances and/or the individual's total performance in the course. The instructor reserves the right to alter the Evaluation scheme if circumstance warrant it (eg. TA loss).
**Exam Format:** (subject to change by instructor if circumstances warrant)

**Test 1 (Oct. 6)** Short answer questions taken from all readings and lectures from September 8th to Oct. 2nd. inclusive.

**Test 2 (Oct. 30)** Short answer questions taken from all readings and lectures from October 8 to Oct. 29. inclusive.

**Final exam:**
- **Part 1.** Short answer and short essay questions selected from the lectures and readings from Nov. 3rd. to Dec. 1st. inclusive.
- **Part 2.** General essay questions covering all of the course content

The final exam is in the examination period and is scheduled by the Registrar’s office

**Research paper:** Final Draft due November 13th.

10 double-spaced typewritten pages (not including references) on a research topic in the area of reading. A list of choices will be provided. Any other topic **must** be approved by Dr. Levy in order to meet this requirement.

Below find the tentative lecture outline and the required readings for each topic. **Note:** Topics may be changed and readings may be added or deleted as we go through the course. It will be your responsibility to see that you know of any changes in the topics and required readings that are announced during the lecture periods. Similarly, any changes in readings that are required for the mid-term or final exams will be announced in class, and it is your responsibility to be aware of such changes.
# Tentative Schedule

## Lecture Topic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 4</td>
<td>Introduction &amp; Outline</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 8-18</td>
<td>Review: Concepts and models of Information Processing</td>
<td>Readings 1, 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 22-Oct. 2</td>
<td>What is print?</td>
<td>Readings 3, 4, 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 6</td>
<td>TEST 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 8, 9</td>
<td>Orthographic units</td>
<td>Readings 6, 7</td>
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<td>Oct. 13</td>
<td>Thanksgiving: No Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 15, 16</td>
<td>Training methods</td>
<td>Readings 8, 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 20</td>
<td>Non-alphabetic languages</td>
<td>Reading 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 22, 23</td>
<td>Emergent Literacy</td>
<td>Readings 11, 12, 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 27, 29</td>
<td>What is missing: conceptual processes</td>
<td>Readings 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 30</td>
<td>TEST 2</td>
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<td>Nov. 3</td>
<td>Comprehension</td>
<td>Reading 15</td>
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<td>Nov. 5-10</td>
<td>Goodman</td>
<td>Readings 16, 17, 18</td>
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<td>Nov. 12-17</td>
<td>Process interactions</td>
<td>Readings 19, 20, 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 19-24</td>
<td>What is fluency?</td>
<td>Readings 22, 23, 24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 26, 27</td>
<td>Individual differences</td>
<td>Reading 25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 1</td>
<td>Catch up and Review</td>
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**NOTE:** Last Day to withdraw without failure from 2nd. term course - November 7.
REQUIRED READINGS

Information Processing


Data-Driven Processes & Models

What is print?


Orthographic Units


Training Methods: Orthographic & Phonological Units


Non-alphabetic Languages


Emergent literacy


Conceptually-Driven Processes and Models

What is missing?

Conceptual Processes


Comprehension


Goodman


Process Interactions


Fluency


Individual differences