Psychology 3U03 - Psychology of Reading

Fall Session 2009  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 Scheme:
1) 50 min. test – Wednesday, October 14th  20%
2) 50 min. test - Thursday, November 5th  20%
3) Final exam - to be scheduled in the examination period  35%
4) Research paper - due THURSDAY, November 19th - 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>
<th>Grade Point</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>63-66</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>57-59</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>53-56</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>50-52</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>1</td>
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</tbody>
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0-49        | F     | 0           |

NOTE 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 also reserves the right to alter the Evaluation scheme and exam formats if circumstance warrant it (eg. TA loss, alteration in scheduling of term etc.).
Exam Format: (subject to change by instructor if circumstances warrant)

Test 1 (Oct. 14) Short answer questions taken from all readings and lectures from September 14th to Oct. 8th inclusive.

Test 2 (Nov. 5) Short answer questions taken from all readings and lectures from October 15 to Nov. 4 inclusive.

Final exam: Part 1 Short answer and short essay questions selected from the lectures and readings from Nov. 9th to Dec. 3rd 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 19th.

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; unapproved topics will result in an automatic 0 on the paper.

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.

Academic Integrity
You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, eg. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonest please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:
1. Plagiarism, eg. The submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations
**Tentative Schedule**

**Lecture Topic**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 10</td>
<td>Introduction &amp; Outline</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 14 - 24</td>
<td>Review: Concepts and models of Information Processing</td>
<td>Readings 1, 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 28 - Oct. 8</td>
<td>What is print?</td>
<td>Readings 3, 4, 5</td>
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<td>Oct. 12</td>
<td>Thanksgiving: No Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 14</td>
<td>TEST 1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 15, 19</td>
<td>Orthographic units</td>
<td>Readings 6, 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 21, 22</td>
<td>Training methods</td>
<td>Readings 8, 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 26</td>
<td>Non-alphabetic languages</td>
<td>Reading 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 28, 29</td>
<td>Emergent Literacy</td>
<td>Readings 11, 12, 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 2, 4</td>
<td>What is missing: conceptual processes</td>
<td>Readings 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 5</td>
<td>TEST 2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 9</td>
<td>Comprehension</td>
<td>Reading 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 11- 12</td>
<td>Goodman</td>
<td>Readings 16, 17, 18</td>
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<td>Nov. 16 - 19</td>
<td>Process interactions</td>
<td>Readings 19, 20, 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 23- 26</td>
<td>What is fluency?</td>
<td>Readings 22, 23, 24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 30, Dec. 2</td>
<td>Individual differences</td>
<td>Reading 25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 3</td>
<td>Catch up and Review</td>
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**NOTE:** Last Day to withdraw without failure from 1st term course - November 6.
REQUIRED READINGS

**Information Processing**

**Data-Driven Processes & Models**

*What is print?*

**Orthographic Units**

**Training Methods: Orthographic & Phonological Units**

**Non-alphabetic Languages**
What we can learn from Chinese. Scientific Studies of Reading, 2, 55 -79.

Emergent literacy


Conceptually-Driven Processes and Models

What is missing? Conceptual Processes


Comprehension


Goodman


Process Interactions


Fluency


Individual differences