

PSYCHOLOGY 3UU3: The Psychology of Language, Winter 2017

Instructor: Dr. Karin Humphreys

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

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Office Hours: By appointment; I will be in the lecture room for a half hour before the lecture, and will also stay after the lecture. Most questions can be answered there, or via Avenue.

Lectures: Thursdays, 7pm. MDCL 1309

Avenue: The course website is available to registered students by logging into Avenue, at <http://avenue.mcmaster.ca> You will need to learn how to use Avenue to access the course content, announcements, and discussions. All Powerpoint slides from the lectures will be made available on Avenue only after the lectures, as PDFs. It is your responsibility to keep up to date with class announcements made on Avenue.

In this course we will be using Avenue. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure, please discuss this with the course instructor.

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, 4th edition.

Assessment:

Midterm 1: 15%; Jan 26 (in class, regular classroom)

Midterm 2: 15%; Feb 16 (in class, regular classroom)

Midterm 3: 15%; Mar 16 (in class, regular classroom)

Final Exam: 35% (in final exam period)

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. When there is specific material that can be skipped in the chapters, an announcement will be made in class and on Avenue.

Midterm 1 will cover the lectures from Jan 5, 12, and 19, include chapters 1, 2 (as background info only), 3, and 5, and include Summaries 1 and 2.

Midterm 2 will cover the lectures from Jan 26, Feb 2 and Feb 9, include chapters 6, 7 and 9, and include Summaries 3, 4, and 5.

Midterm 3 will cover the lectures from Feb 26, March 2, and March 9, include chapters 10, 11 and 12, and include Summaries 6, 7 and 8.

Final Exam is cumulative, but will include extra concentration on the material that is taught after Midterm 3 (lectures from March 16, March 22, March 30, and April 6, chapters 13, 14, 15, 16, and Summaries 9 and 10.)

The three midterms will consist of answering two out of four short essay (approx 1 page) questions, worth 5% each; plus 5 short answer (a sentence or two) questions, worth 1% each. The final exam will consist of answering two out of four short essay questions on the final section of the course, worth 5% each, plus an additional two short essay questions that integrate themes from across the whole course, also worth 5% each. There will be an additional 15 short answer questions from across the whole course, worth 1% each.

If you are unwell at the time of any exam, it will NOT be reweighted. You will be required to write a makeup exam when you are well.

Weekly Readings:

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

- 1) write a summary of the article that is to be NO LONGER than one page (DOUBLE spaced) (1%)
- 2) write down (at least) THREE questions you have about the article (1%)

EACH SUMMARY AND QUESTIONS ARE DUE AT 7PM ON THE NIGHT OF CLASS. These are to be submitted electronically via the Avenue Assignment Drop-box.

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. Do NOT exceed the page limit. Coming up with an effective, concise summary is to your own benefit.

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: If an absence for an exam has been registered, please contact the instructor as soon as possible. All missed midterms with excused absences will be replaced by a makeup exam of the same format, held as soon as possible after the student is well enough to write.

Recording Lectures: You may record lectures for your own use, but they may NOT be posted online in any way.

Tentative Outline of Topics

Date	Topic	Textbook Chapter	Due
Jan 5	Intro	1, 2	
Jan 12	Foundations	3	
Jan 19	Bilingualism	5	Summary 1
Jan 26	MIDTERM 1; Visual word recognition	6	Summary 2
Feb 2	Reading, Spoken word recognition	7, 9	Summary 3
Feb 9	Spoken Word Recognition		Summary 4
Feb 16	MIDTERM 2; Sentence processing	10	Summary 5
Mar 2	Sentence Processing, Word meaning	11	Summary 6
Mar 9	Comprehension	12	Summary 7
Mar 16	MIDTERM 3; Production	13	Summary 8
Mar 23	Production		Summary 9
March 30	Conversation	14	Summary 10
April 6	Applications, Systems	15, 16	