SprI,N 2002

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 9:30 - 10:20, AL 211

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Hagey Hall 247, x5362
Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 8:00-9:20
Home phone (Milton): (905) 876-3972
RAHA@WATARTS; HTTP://WWW.ARTS.UWATERLOO.CA/~RAHA/

K®o•rs ‘pHit’,mij

We study what it means to know and use a language: you need
to know the sounds, the words, the way words group together,
and how those word groups fit into a web of meaning. That's
a lot just to get someone to pass you the salt or agree that
the Leafs sucked last night, but you deploy those systems
effortlessly every day. What's more, you know them pretty
much the way you know how to breathe or swallow or ride a
bike: at a below-the-surface level. At the surface, you
don't know which of your consonants resonate out your nose,
but you know it, because you always send the right ones out
the nose. In this course, we're going to drag that knowledge
to the surface, kicking and screaming. We're also going to
see how that knowledge interacts with other, non-
linguistically areas of cognition—in particular, perception,
emotion, categorization, abstraction processes, and
reasoning—to get some purchase on the way we express and
exchange ideas and thoughts through weird little noises or
marks on a page or lines and circles on a screen, like these
ones..

Rijkwajr'd tEkst

Dirven and Verspoor, Cognitive exploration of language and

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Midterm I (3 October) 20%
Midterm II (1 November) 30%
Final (whenever they tell us) 50%

Nowts

English 306A is a required course in the Cognitive Science
option.

Familiarize yourself with POLICY #71, particularly with
regard to PLAGIARISM and other forms of CHEATING.

Please have the required readings done BEFORE class, and
read them AGAIN after class, and, if you're not clear about
something, ASK.