306A Introduction to Linguistics

sprîŋ 2002 Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:00 – 5:20, HH 150
raêndîj herês Hagey Hall 247, x5362
Hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, 8:00-10:00
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d'ho:r sêpîtêmîj 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-linguistic 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..

rijkwaĵd tekst Dirven and Verspoor, Cognitive exploration of language and linguistics. Philadelphia:
John Benjamins, 1998

rijkwaĵmênts Midterm I (6 June) 20%
Midterm II (4 July) 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**.