10:00-11:20 TTh HH 280

Hagey Hall 247, x5362
Hours: Tuesdays, 8:00 - 9:00; Thursdays, 1:00 - 2:00
Home phone (Milton): (905) 876-3972
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[rændij herəs]

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.

[kʰors ɐpʰitəmij]

We're also going to see how that knowledge interacts with other, non-linguistic areas of cognition—in particular, perception, emotion, categorisation, 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.

[rəkwəjərmənts]

Midterm I (1 June) 20%
Midterm II (6 July) 30%
Final (TBA) 50%

[rəkwəjaɹd teksts]

Dirven and Verspoor. Cognitive exploration of language and linguistics. Philadelphia: John Benjamins, 1998 (ISBN 155619 1987) and 2004 (ISBN 158811 4864). There are two editions, the second one with a few errors corrected and some other minor massaging. Either edition is fine for the course, but I'll be using the 2nd edition, so if you're using the first, be aware of minor pagination discrepancies. As always, if you are unsure about anything in the book, please ask.

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

Please have the required readings done before class, and be prepared to read them again after class, and, if you're not clear about something, ASK.

[nowts]

The textbook will be supplemented very regularly with concepts and examples, and the lectures have a strongly cumulative structure. It is, therefore, not a very good idea to miss class. If you do, get notes, preferably from more than one person, so you can triangulate on what we did.

Familiarize yourself with policy #71, particularly with regard to plagiarism and other forms of cheating.

[liŋks]

Course links and downloads (please report linkrot)

Answers to the textbook exercises here (PDF on publisher's site)

http://www.arts.uwaterloo.ca/~raha/306a_web/306AS06body.html

05/05/2006
Lecture materials
(updated as the course proceeds)

Please note these files were developed for lecturing only, and made available for your convenience; they were not developed for home-studying, independent of the course, and they contain many redundancies, partial explanations, enigmatic notes, and so on—the sorts of things which depend on in-class lectures to clarify.

For onscreen viewing
This list includes power-point show files (pps), which you can download and view on your own machine with MS PowerPoint (part of the MS Office suite), or with PowerPoint Viewer (available in a free download from Microsoft). You can also print them off, of course, though that's probably a waste of resources.

History.pps

For printing
This list includes portable document format files (pdf), which you can download and view on your own machine with Acrobat Reader (available in a free download from Adobe). You can use these files anyway you like, but they have small images of the slides I used in class, and they are meant to help you take and/or collate your notes.

History.pdf

Linguistics sites

Fields of linguistics
Linguistic Society of America FAQ
LINGUIST list site

Cognitive linguistic sites

Cognitive linguistics, the journal
Bert Debeers's article on Cognitive Linguistics
Marjolijn Verspoor's home page

Language pages

Klingon language page
I love languages page (formerly the Human languages page)

Phonetics and phonology sites

International Phonetics Association
Interactive phonemic lessons
IPA Help
Get the IPA font here
IPA and ASCII alphabets (with sound)

Writing systems

Evolution of alphabets
Karen Chung's magnificent list o' links

Language and linguistics links

Miscellaneous

Online english grammar
Glossary of linguistics terms

[ʃ edʒ ju ə l]

This is secret linguistic code for "schedule": it's a link.