Psychology 391 - A01  
Special Topic: How the Mind Makes Meaning

**Meeting times**: Monday and Thursday; 1:00 pm - 2:20 pm.

**Venue**: Cornett Building A221

**Instructor**: Professor Daniel Bub

**Teaching Assistant**: MacKenzie Robertson

**Office**: Cornett A185

**Office Hours**: Friday 12:00 pm. - 1:00 pm.

Text: *Selected readings can be downloaded from*


**Objectives:**
The purpose of this course is to introduce a variety of different approaches to the question of how we derive the meaning of words, objects and human intentions. The course is based on experimental evidence from cognitive psychology and neuroscience.

The course readings are also an essential part of this course. It is not possible, in general, to do well either by simply covering the assigned readings and skipping classes, or just by attending class. A successful and rewarding experience requires: (i) diligence in carrying out every reading assignment before class, and (ii) attending lectures on a regular basis.

Lectures will be an opportunity to explore and refine your understanding of the ideas in the text, although some mastery of the course content will depend on completing the background reading assignments.

During the semester, we will cover the following topics:

- **Computational methods**: Simulating the effects of brain damage.
- **Word meaning (a)**: nouns referring to concrete objects
- **Word meaning (b)**: action words
- **Word meaning (c)**: words referring to space. The meaning of *up.*
- **Objects**. What is a cup?
Motor Actions and human intentions

Metaphor and the meaning of abstract words.

Course requirements:

Classroom attendance is crucial in this course if you wish to obtain a reasonable final grade.

Before each section of the course, one or more reading assignments will be posted on our website. This will include detailed instructions on how to approach the conceptual content of the reading(s), what ideas to attend to, as well as a number of questions that allow you to evaluate your understanding of the section you are preparing in advance of each class.

During the lecture, which builds on the reading assignment(s), five multiple choice questions will be posed at various points, some of them covering the assigned background reading material, others dealing with the content of the lecture. A correct answer is worth 2 points (no points are allocated for an incorrect answer), giving a possible total of 10 points. There are 20 such classroom exercises (a total of 200 points). Your performance on these exercises will count for 20% of your final grade.

Students may miss any three of the Iclicker exercises without penalty. For example, if you miss three exercises, your final grade on this section of the course will be computed out of a total of 170 points (17 exercises x 10 points = 170) rather than 200 points. These 170 points (instead of 200 points) will then count for 20% of your final grade. If you miss additional exercises, say you miss six classes (imadvisable!), your cumulative score will continue to be out of a total of 170 points.

You must complete all five questions in order to obtain credit for a particular classroom exercise.

To respond to classroom questions you will need an Iclicker. These can be purchased from the bookstore.

To find out more and to register your Iclicker consult:

http://elearning.uvic.ca/iclicker/students

Make sure to always bring your Iclicker with you to every class; it is not possible to accept answers to classroom exercises in written form. Ensure that you have spare batteries in case your Iclicker runs out of power.

Midterms:

There will be two midterm tests, each held in class and lasting for 1 hour. These tests will include both multiple choice and short answer formats and the questions will be distributed in printed form. Each of these quizzes will count for 25% of the final grade. The content of a midterm will be confined to particular sections of the course. The dates of these midterms are as follows:

First midterm — 8th February, 2018.


A final examination covering the entire content of the course will count for 30% of the final grade, and will be scheduled by the administration.
**Exam Protocol:**

1) The usual rules of the university apply to attending examinations. No allowance can be made for busy schedules or other reasons not sanctioned by the UVic administration. For those students missing examinations (midterms) for *valid* reasons, a score based on the completed examinations will be calculated relative to the average scored by the rest of the class.

2) *Students missing the final exam for a valid reason will have to request a deferred examination from Record Services.*

3) When you enter the classroom to write any of the exams, it is assumed that you are mentally and physically able to write the exam. Once you complete an exam, it is not possible to change the outcome on the basis of claims that you were not in a suitable condition to write it.

4) *It is not possible to obtain additional marks in this course by asking for special dispensation privately arranged on an individual basis* (for example, a request from a student to produce an essay or review for additional marks beyond the marks assigned to exams and classroom participation). In other words, your final grade is based completely on: Two midterms counting together for 50% of your final grade, a final exam counting for 30% of your final grade, and 20% assigned to classroom Iclicker performance. There are no other options available for adding to your final grade.

**Some requests:**

Please arrive for lectures on time. 
Because cellphones are distracting, these devices should not be used in class unless you are using the for lecture notes or recording purposes. 
Please do not talk in class unless you have questions or remarks you wish to share with everyone. 
Please do not leave before the end of the class.

Grades are assigned according to university policy. 
The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive and supportive and safe learning and working environment for all its members. Students are responsible for checking their registration status before the end of the course add period. 
Students will not be added to the course after that date.

**Contacting the Course Instructor or TA:**

We respond to emails during working hours only. We cannot respond expediently to emails on weekends or after 5 pm.
Prerequisites

Students who remain in courses for which they do not have the prerequisites do so at their own risk. Students who complete courses without prerequisites ARE NOT exempt from having to complete the prerequisite course(s) if such courses are required for the degree program.

Program Requirements

For more information see pages 305-308 of the UVic Calendar January 2018.

Registration Status

Students are responsible for verifying their registration status. Registration status may be verified using My Page, View Schedule. Course adds and drops will not be processed after the deadlines set out in the current UVic Calendar.

Commitment to Inclusivity and Diversity

The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive and supportive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.

In the Event of Illness, Accident or Family Affliction (See UVic Calendar, January 2018, p. 46-47)

- What to do if you miss the final exam scheduled during the formal exam period

Apply at Records Services for a “Request for Academic Concession”, normally within 10 working days of the date of the exam. Records Services will forward the form to the instructor. If the concession is granted, the instructor will determine how to deal with the situation (for example, a deferred exam). Where a concession is not applied for or where such application is denied, an N grade will be entered on the student’s academic record.

OR, you can download the Request for Academic Concession form here: http://www.uvic.ca/registrar/assets/docs/record-forms/rac.pdf

- What to do if you miss an exam other than one scheduled during the formal exam period

Do not apply at Records Services for a “Request for Academic Concession”. Instead submit documentation of the illness, accident or family affliction directly to your course instructor (or designated teaching assistant).

- What to do if you require additional time to complete course requirements

Apply at Records Services for a “Request for Academic Concession”, normally within 10 working days of the end of the course. Records Services will forward the form to the instructor. If the concession is granted, the instructor will determine how to deal with the situation (for example, a deferred exam). Where a concession is not applied for or where such application is denied, an N grade will be entered on the student’s academic record.

OR, you can download the Request for Academic Concession form here: http://www.uvic.ca/registrar/assets/docs/record-forms/rac.pdf
Policy on Academic Integrity including Plagiarism and Cheating

The Department of Psychology fully endorses and intends to enforce rigorously the Senate Policy on Academic Integrity (https://web.uvic.ca/calendar2018-01/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html#), p. 42-45, UVic Calendar January 2018). It is of utmost importance that students who do their work honestly be protected from those who do not. Because this policy is in place to ensure that students carry out and benefit from the learning activities assigned in each course, it is expected that students will cooperate in its implementation.

The offenses defined by the policy can be summarized briefly as follows:

1. **Plagiarism.** You must make sure that the work you submit is your work and not someone else’s. There are proper procedures for citing the works of others. The student is responsible for being aware of and using these procedures.

2. **Unauthorized Use of an Editor.** The use of an editor is prohibited unless the instructor grants explicit written authorization.

3. **Multiple Submission.** Only under exceptional circumstances may a work submitted to fulfill an academic requirement be used to satisfy another similar requirement. The student is responsible for clarifying this with the instructor(s) involved.

4. **Falsifying Materials Subject to Academic Evaluation.** This includes falsification of data, use of commercially prepared essays, using information from the Internet without proper citation, citing sources from which material is not actually obtained, etc.

5. **Cheating on Assignments, Tests, and Examinations.** You may not copy the work of others in or out of class; you may not give your work to others for the purpose of copying; you may not use unauthorized material or equipment during examinations or tests; and you may not impersonate or allow yourself to be impersonated by another at an examination. The Department of Psychology has a policy of not making old examinations available for study purposes. Therefore, use of old exams without the express written permission of the instructor constitutes cheating by the user, and abetting of cheating by the person who provided the exam.

6. **Being an Accessory to Offences.** This means that helping another student to cheat (for instance, by showing or communicating to them answers to an assignment, or by allowing them to view answers on an exam) is an academic offence.

Instructors are expected to make every effort to prevent cheating and plagiarism. This may include the assignment of seating for examinations, asking students to move during examinations, requests to see student identification cards, and other measures as appropriate. Instructors also have available to them a variety of tools and procedures to check for Internet and electronic media-based cheating. In instances of suspected or actual plagiarism or cheating, instructors, following prescribed procedures, are authorized to take steps consistent with the degree of the offence. These measures will range from a zero on the test or assignment or a failing grade for the course, probation within a program to temporary or even permanent suspension from the University.

Rights of Appeal are described in the Policy on Academic Integrity in the University calendar (on p. 43-44 in January 2018).

The definitive source for information on Academic Integrity is the University Calendar (p. 42-45 in January 2018) (https://web.uvic.ca/calendar2018-01/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html#)

Other useful resources on Plagiarism and Cheating include:

1. The Study Solutions Office: https://www.uvic.ca/services/counselling/success/study/index.php
2. The Ombudsperson’s office: http://www.uvss.uvic.ca/ombudsperson/pubsguides/plagiarism.pdf
3. UVic Library Resources: http://www.uvic.ca/library/research/citation/plagiarism/