PSY 734: Mental Workload Theory & Applications Seminar
Fall 2011
Thursday: 10:30 am-1:10 pm
Arch Lab Conference Room

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Blackboard Site: http://gmuboard.com/webct/

Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:30-3:30 pm and by appointment (you are encouraged to email me or talk to me after class about meeting at other times)


Additional Required Readings: See Readings List

Course Description:
This seminar will focus on the theories and applications of mental workload assessment. We will cover issues surrounding development of the concept and both early and contemporary theories and models of mental workload. An emphasis will be placed on selection of workload assessment techniques based on the purpose of assessment and the environment in which it will take place. Thus, in addition to discussing theories and techniques of assessment, a focus will be placed on application of the existing literature in this area. Key topics will include: Mental Workload definitions and constructs, Early Attention & Resource Theories, Methods of Assessment – Behavioral, Physiological, Subjective, Contemporary Theories and Models of Workload -Information Processing Models, Computational, Neurophysiological, Automation & Workload, Adaptive Automation, Vigilance, Workload Transition, Affects of Aging, and Areas of Applications.

Grading System:
- Major Project Oral/Written Draft: 1 @ 50 = 50
- Major Project Final Written Manuscript: 1 @ 100 = 100
- Major Project Final Oral Presentation: 1 @ 50 = 50
- Article Discussion Lead: 1 @ 25 = 25
- Application/Midterm Exam: 1 @ 55 = 55
- Final Comprehensive Exam: 1 @ 100 = 100
- Participation & Discussion: = 75

TOTAL POINTS 450 points

Grading Scale:
Superior/Excellent: 97-100% = A+ 93-96% = A 90-93% = A-
Above Average: 87-89% = B+ 83-86% = B 80-82% = B-
Average: 
77 - 79% = C+  
73-76% = C  
70-72% = C-
Failing: 59 and below

Policies, Procedures, Philosophy & Expectations

1) First and foremost, it is my hope that together we can create a learning atmosphere conducive to intellectual discovery and growth. We all have something to bring to the discussions and with mutual respect for each other we can all learn.

2) Critically read all assigned material prior to the day it is to be discussed. Come to class ready to participate in discussions of the material, exercises to strengthen learning and with thoughtful questions and insights for further learning. Refer to the Readings calendar for a list of dates for articles/chapters to be covered.

3) Article discussions: You will be in charge of discussing critical aspects of three of the assigned articles and leading the class in discussion of the topic involved. (Critical aspects for research investigations include: rationale for the study, methodology, results, discussion, and implications & limitations. Critical aspects for review papers and chapters include such items as: nature of the debate or issue, supporting evidence for diverse views, design of a debate resolving investigation, gaps in the literature, etc.) You should plan to present your portion of the reading for 10-15 minutes – using power point slides, handouts, discussion questions, demonstrations, etc…

4) Literature Review paper: Complete and independent literature review on a topic related to psycholinguistics. Papers should be 10-15 pages in length, APA style, include at least 15 references (10 should be from journal articles published 1995 or later). Present a 20-30 minute summary of this literature review in class.

Sample Course/Lecture Schedule*

PSY 734: Mental Workload Seminar
Readings List

Prerequisite Readings (I’m assuming you have read these already, if not – please do so ASAP).

(Wickens, 1984) (Cherry, 1953) (Baddeley & Hitch, 1974)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment/Reading</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Syllabus, Assignments &amp; Course Overview; Early Attention &amp; Resource theories; Overview of Assessment Techniques</td>
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<td>September 8&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Resources theories, Assessment techniques, &amp; Behavioral Measures</td>
<td>(Eggemeier, 1988; Gopher &amp; Donchin, 1986)</td>
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<td>September 15&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Dual Task Methodologies (Auxiliary, subsidiary &amp; loading tasks, POCs)</td>
<td>(Ogden, Levine, &amp; Eisner, 1979; Verwey &amp; Veltman, 1996)</td>
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<td>Sept. 22&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Physiological Assessments</td>
<td>(Kramer, Sirevaag, &amp; Braune,</td>
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<td>Date</td>
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<td>Resources</td>
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<td>Sept. 29th</td>
<td>Subjective Assessments</td>
<td>(Hart &amp; Staveland, 1988; Rubio, Diaz, Martin, &amp; Puente, 2004)</td>
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<td>Oct. 6th</td>
<td>Theories &amp; models (info processing, computational &amp; neurophysiological)</td>
<td>(Horrey &amp; Wickens, 2003; Wickens, 2002; Young &amp; Stanton, 2002)</td>
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<td>Oct. 13th</td>
<td>Drafts of Final Projects due</td>
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<td>Oct. 20th</td>
<td>Midterm Examination</td>
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<td>October 27th</td>
<td>Automation &amp; workload (adaptive systems)</td>
<td>(Freeman, Mikulka, Scerbo, &amp; Scott, 2004; Wilson &amp; Russell, 2007)</td>
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<td>Nov. 3rd</td>
<td>Workload Transition &amp; vigilance</td>
<td>(Executive Summary, Huey &amp; Wickens, 1993; Warm, 1993)</td>
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<td>Nov. 10th</td>
<td>Applications (i.e., drivers, pilots, medical personnel, aging, HCI, product design)</td>
<td>(Andre, Hancock, &amp; Desmond, 2001; Wierwille, Rahimi, &amp; Casali, 1985)</td>
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<td>Nov. 17th</td>
<td>Current debates &amp; issues</td>
<td>(Boles, Bursk, Phillips, &amp; Perdelwitz, 2007; Parasuraman &amp; Rizzo, 2007; Wickens, 2007</td>
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<td>Nov. 24th</td>
<td>No Class – Thanksgiving Break</td>
<td>Project Presentations</td>
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<td>December 1st</td>
<td>Last Class</td>
<td>Project Presentations</td>
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<td>December 8th</td>
<td>Final Exam 10:30 am – 1:15 pm</td>
<td>Project Presentations</td>
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<td>December 15th</td>
<td>Final Exam 10:30 am – 1:15 pm</td>
<td>(Final Project Papers Due)</td>
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**Additional Resources & Suggested Readings**

**Early Attention & Resource Theories**

(Lavie, 2005; Lavie, Hirst, de Fockert, & Viding, 2004)  
(Norman & Bobrow, 1975)

**Secondary Task measures**


**Physiological measures**

(Baldwin, 2003; Baldwin & Coyne, 2005; Gevins, Smith, McEvoy, & Yu, 1997; Parasuraman & Caggiano, 2005)

**Subjective measures**

(Nygren, 1991; Reid & Colle, 1988; Reid, Nygren, Hancock, & Meshkati, 1988)
Contemporary Theories and Models of Workload – Information Processing Models, Computational, Neurophysiological


Applications

Workload Redlines
(Colle & Reid, 2005)

(Zeitlin, 1995)

Workload Transition

(Desmond & Hoyes, 1996; Hancock, Williams, Manning, & Miyake, 1995)

Automation & Workload

(Harris, Hancock, Arthur, & Caird, 1995; Parasuraman & Hancock, 2001)

Crossmodal Spatial Attention

(Shomstein & Yantis, 2004; Spence & Read, 2003)
References


*The instructor reserves the right to change lecture dates, assignments, and assigned readings as deemed necessary.