Psychology 2AA3
Survey of Developmental Psychology

Winter, 2003

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Objectives: This course focuses on the academic study of child development. Several aspects of development will be discussed: prenatal development, physical and motor development, perceptual development, learning, cognitive development, emotional development, and social development. The primary objectives include facilitating an understanding of developmental principles and an understanding of experimental design and measurement. This course is designed for students not registered in a psychology programme or not wishing to do further work in developmental psychology. It is an antirequisite to 2A03, 3G03, and 3GG3.

Evaluation: There will be 3 tests. Only your best two will count and each will be worth 35% of your final grade. The tests will consist of short-answer questions. There will be no make up tests. If you miss a test due to illness or any other reason, the other two tests will count by default. Therefore you are strongly advised to plan to write all three tests. Tests will be based on both the text and class material. You are responsible for the material in the chapters indicated, whether or not it is covered in class. You are also responsible for all material covered in class.
To provide students with an opportunity to actively engage in the learning process, three discussion questions will be distributed (January 15, February 5, and March 12). Questions may be based on journal articles (to be placed on reserve) or class material. Students will be placed into groups of (approximately) 6. Students will be expected to prepare for the discussion and to meet once with group members. (Meetings may occur during class time.) Following the discussion, each group will be required to submit a short (1 to 2 pages) summary of their discussion. Each summary will be worth 5% of your final grade. Summaries are due by noon on January 29, February 26, and March 26.

During the last class, we will meet in small groups to discuss a question that integrates the course material. Each student will prepare for and participate in a 1-hour discussion, to be led by either a TA or the course instructor. Following the discussion, each student will submit a short (3 page), typed paper in which they discuss the question(s) addressed by his/her group. These papers will be due by 4:00 April 5, and must be done independently of other students in the group. Your participation in the discussion will be worth 5% of your final grade; your written answer(s) will be worth 10% of your final grade. Two marks of 10 will be deducted from papers that are submitted on Monday, April 8; one additional mark of 10 will be deducted for each additional day that the paper is late. No papers will be accepted after 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 10.

Schedule:

NOTE: This schedule is subject to change. PLEASE check the WEB page for updates! (Failure to attend class is not an acceptable excuse for being unaware of changed test dates, for example.)

**January 8 – January 29**

*Chapter 1 – 3; 5*

Issues & Methods in Developmental Psychology
A Case Study: The Development of Aesthetic Preferences
Genetics and Heredity
Growth and Motor Development
**Test #1 February 5**

January 29 – February 26

Chapter 6-8

Perception
Language Learning
Cognitive Development

**Test #2 March 5**

March 5 – March 19

Information Processing
Emotional Development

**Test #3 March 26**

April 2

During class time, each student will meet with a group for one hour to discuss integrative questions (see “evaluation” above).

**NOTES.** To allow time for group discussion, most classes will include only a 2-hour lecture. Discussion may occur during the third hour or at a time of your choice. Tests will have a duration of approximately fifty minutes; class will then resume after a 15-minute break.