

Fall 2007
PSYC 2AA3: Developmental Psychology
MWR 10:30-11:30, Chester New Hall, 104

Please note: The contents of this syllabus are *subject to change*. Any changes will be announced in class and posted on our class website. It is your responsibility to keep track of changes.

Professor:

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Teaching Assistants:

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Course Description: This course is designed to introduce you to research and theory in developmental psychology, covering the years from conception to adolescence.

Textbook: Kail, R. V. (2007). *Children and their development*, 4th Ed. Available at the bookstore.

Website: This course has a WebCT website (www.ltrc.mcmaster.ca/webct/). You are expected to check this website with regularity for announcements, updates, discussion board postings, and other valuable information.

Evaluation: Three exams (two midterms and a final), consisting of multiple-choice items and short essays (subject to change if circumstances warrant). These will cover lecture material *and* assigned readings, even readings not discussed in class. The midterms will be held on Wednesday, Oct 10th and Thursday Nov 8th. The final exam will be held during the examination period.

Final Grade Calculations: Each midterm is worth 30% of your final grade; the final exam is worth 40% of your final grade (30+30+40=100).

Your final grade will be converted to a letter grade, according to the following scheme:

<u>Percentage (Grade)</u>	<u>Percentage (Grade)</u>	<u>Percentage (Grade)</u>	<u>Percentage (Grade)</u>
90-100 (A+)	77-79 (B+)	67-69 (C+)	57-59 (D+)
85-89 (A)	73-76 (B)	63-66 (C)	53-56 (D)
80-84 (A-)	70-72 (B-)	60-62 (C-)	50-52 (D-)
			0-49 (F)

Note: The instructor reserves the right to adjust final grades up or down, on a individual basis, in the light of special circumstances. The instructor also reserves the right to alter the evaluation scheme if circumstances warrant it (e.g., TA loss).

Schedule

This Schedule is *Tentative* and Subject To Change

Week of	Topic	Readings*
Sept 6	Introduction and methods	Ch 1 -2
Sept 10	Physical development	Ch 3-4
Sept 17	Perceptual and motor development	Ch 5
Sept 24	Cognitive development	Ch 6-9
Oct 1	Cognitive development	
Oct 8	Midterm 1 on Weds Oct 10th	
Oct 15	Social and personality development	Ch 10-11
Oct 22	Social and personality development	
Oct 29	Social and personality development	
Nov 5	Midterm 2 on Thurs Nov 8th	
Nov 12	Moral development	Ch 12
Nov 18	Sex and gender	Ch 13
Nov 26	Family relations	Ch 14
Dec 3	Wrap-Up	

***Note:** Extra readings may be assigned as we go. These will be announced in class and on WebCT. Links to any extra readings will be posted on WebCT; it is your responsibility to keep track of extra materials.

Other Important Information: You are strongly encouraged to show up to all lectures, and *never to miss an exam or assignment due-date*. If something comes up that will interfere with your ability to meet class deadlines, *immediately* contact me or one of your TA's. If you miss an exam, you must provide a doctor's certificate (or equivalent for non-medical situations), or you will receive a zero (0) on that exam.

In-class and discussion board participation is strongly encouraged. Remember, if you have a question, your colleagues probably have one, too, and will appreciate it if you speak up. Don't be shy about asking questions!

Academic Integrity: You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behavior can result in serious consequences, e.g., a grade of zero (0) on an assignment, loss of course credit with a notation on the transcript ("grade F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty, please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, at <http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity>.