

SYLLABUS
PSYCHOLOGY 3GG3
ESSENTIALS OF DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY
Department of Psychology, Neuroscience, and Behaviour
McMaster University
Spring Term 2008

Time: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm (May 6 – June 19, 2008)

Location: ABB-271

Instructor: Paul Brunet

Office: Psychology Building, Room 134

Office hours: By appointment

Phone: 905.525.9140 ext. 24798

Email: brunetpm@mcmaster.ca

Website:

This course has a WebCT website (www.ltrc.mcmaster.ca/webct/). You are responsible for all information posted on this website. You are expected to check this website regularly for changes to our schedule, announcements, discussion board postings, and other valuable information.

Required Text:

- 1) Slater, A. & Bremner, G. (2003). *An Introduction to Developmental Psychology*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing.
- 2) Slater, A. & Muir, D. (1999). *The Blackwell Reader in Developmental Psychology*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing.

Course Overview & Objectives:

This course introduces students to a variety of topics relating to developmental psychology. The focus in the first half of the course is developmental issues of infancy, and in the second half issues of childhood and adolescence. Biological and environmental evidence of development will be presented. Students are expected to engage in class discussions about the topics and evidence presented.

Course Process:

Classes will consist of lectures and discussions on topics that parallel and relate to the information covered in the textbook, but will not duplicate the textbook. Class time will be used to expand on and clarify concepts from the textbook through the presentation of additional material and discussion.

Exams will cover material from classes, assignments, and from the textbook; therefore attendance, assignment completion, reading completion and text study is crucial. Students are responsible for all information presented in class and should obtain notes from a classmate for any classes missed. It is not the instructors' responsibility to provide you with notes for missed lectures.

Addendums:

1. Please remain engaged with the class discussions and presentations.
2. Do not carry on private conversation in class, or work on assignments or projects that are not directly related to the classroom session.
3. Late work and requests for deferment of exams will generally not be accepted. If you do not hand in an assignment or miss an examination, you will be assigned a zero until I am provided with University accepted documentation excusing you for that assignment or examination. It is your

- responsibility to inform yourself on the proper procedure to follow within your faculty to submit the necessary documentation.
4. While I, the instructor, am open and available to your concerns as a student, attempts to influence your grades by means such as stating what grade you need, or asking what you need to do individually to get a good grade, or offering some incentive to get a good grade, are considered violations of academic ethics. I do, however, encourage you to discuss with me how you can more effectively achieve the course objectives and earn your grade honestly. In this regard, sooner is better than later.
 5. Plagiarism in any written work will not be tolerated.
 6. Students are reminded to read the **Statement on Academic Ethics** and the **Senate Resolutions on Academic Dishonesty** found in the Senate Policy Statements and distributed at registration and available at the Senate Office. Students who violate these statements will be treated in accordance with the published policy.
 7. The course outline is subject to change however; you will be informed of any changes in class and on WebCT ahead of time.

ASSIGNMENTS, EXAMS & GRADES:

FORMAT	DATE DUE	VALUE
Assignment 1a	May 20	10%
Midterm	May 27	25%
Assignment 1b	June 10	25%
Exam (cumulative)	June 19	40%

* Bonus Marks: If you sign up and participate in a psychology experiment, you will earn 1% bonus on your final. You may earn up to 2% by participating in 2 experiments. (Max of 2% bonus).

Grading scheme:

90-100 = A+ 77-79 = B+ 67-69 = C+ 57-59 = D+ 0-49 = F
 85-89 = A 73-76 = B 63-66 = C 53-56 = D
 80-84 = A- 70-72 = B- 60-62 = C- 50-52 = D

COURSE OUTLINE:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Text</i>	<i>Reader</i>
May 6	Introduction and Methods	1	1
May 8	Theories and Nature versus Nurture Issue	2 & 3	3
May 13	Prenatal Development	4	9
May 15	Perceptual Development	5	12 & 12A
May 20*	Emotional Development (Assignment 1a due)	6	28
May 22	Social Interaction and Communication	7	7
May 27*	Midterm		
May 29	Cognitive Development	8 & 15	4
June 3	Theory of Mind / Language	9 & 10	19
June 5	Play & Peer Relations / Moral Development	13 & 14	32
June 10*	Social Development (Assignment 1b due)	16	
June 12*	Practical Issues / Review Session	17	
June 19*	Final Exam		