

PSYCHOLOGY 3ii3 Cognitive Development
January – April, 2008

- Classes:** Tues, Thurs, Fri: 9:30 – 10:20
- Instructor:** Dr. T.L. Lewis
Psychology - Room 110
E-mail: LewisTL@mcmaster.ca
- Tutors:** Katie Corrigan for Section A (e-mail: corrigma@mcmaster.ca)
Rayna Friendly for Section B (e-mail: friendr@mcmaster.ca)
- Texts:** *Children's Thinking* by David Bjorklund, 4th edition.
Custom Coursewares for Psychology 3ii3
- Website:** <http://www.science.mcmaster.ca/psychology/psych3ii3/index.html>
- Evaluation:** Midterm test: February 28th and 29th, Worth 30%
Group Presentation: 15%
Essay: 15%. See page 5 below for due dates
Participation: 5%
Final exam: 35%

Midterm test (30%). The midterm test will be written in two parts. For Part 1 (February 28th), you will be responsible for all the material in lectures and in the assigned chapters of the text whether or not they are covered in class. For Part 2 (February 29th), you will be responsible for all assigned material in the CourseWare readings and the summary handouts (see below). The tests will consist of long-answer questions.

Group Presentation (15%). Group presentations will be based on the CourseWare readings. Each CourseWare is based on a topic relevant to the lecture and text readings from the previous lectures. The class will be divided into 22 groups, with 11 groups in each of sections A and B. Each group will have 30 minutes to do a presentation to their section centred around one of the CourseWare readings and to lead a discussion on their topic. The presentation and discussion will be graded on content, organisation, style, creativity, and the summary handout. Presenters will be expected to fit the reading into the big picture and consider fully its relevance for cognitive development. The summary handout should be contained on a 2-sided standard 8 x 11 sheet of paper created in Powerpoint as you would prepare a poster for a scientific conference (a sample will be provided). The planned discussion should revolve around the sort of questions that you would ask on an exam if you were the Professor. The class will provide written feedback to the presenters. Presenters will rate themselves and each member of their group.

Essay (25%). Each member of the group will write an **individual** 1,500 word essay revolving around the CourseWares selection that your group presented. The essay is to be a scholarly and thorough examination of research on a narrow topic related to your assigned CourseWares. Essays are due by 9:30 a.m., on the date shown on page 5 below. There will be *no extensions* on the assigned deadline unless there is a formal medical certificate. Therefore you are encouraged to finish your essay well in advance of the deadline. Late penalty is 2% per day or 10% per week. Essays handed in after the class begins the assigned date are counted as 1 day late.

Participation: (5%). Students are expected to have done the assigned CourseWares readings before the relevant class and are expected to participate fully in discussions. Participation grades will be based on attendance, your written evaluation of your own contribution to each group presentation, and your written evaluation of the presenters. If you must be absent for any reason other than medical, please inform your TA in advance and she will let you know whether or not it will count as a missed class.

Final exam (35%). The final exam will include all material from the entire semester. The exam will consist of:

1. Long-answer questions similar in format to those on the midterm. This part of the exam will include mainly material covered since the last exam.
2. One long essay question that will be graded on content, organisation, and style. For this part of the exam, students will be expected to know material from the entire semester.

Grades will be assigned according to the following conventional scheme:

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

Important Dates

Feb. 19, 21, 22	No Class - Spring Break
Feb. 28, 29	MIDTERM EXAM (30%)
April 8	Last class
April 11 - 29	FINAL EXAM (35%)

Please note:

1. Brief lecture outlines will be available on the course website prior to each class. Check the website regularly for announcements.
2. The instructor reserves the right to alter the course requirements or their weighting depending on the course enrolment or other practical considerations (e.g., TA loss).
3. The instructor reserves the right to adjust final marks either up or down, on an individual basis, in the light of special circumstances or the individual's performance in the course.
4. You are responsible for complying with the "Statement on Academic Ethics" and the "Senate Resolutions on Academic Dishonesty" as found in the Senate Policy Statements distributed at registration and available in the Senate Office. Any student who infringes one of these resolutions will be treated according to the published policy.

Course Schedule

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
Jan 8	Introduction	
Jan 10	Introduction	Preface, Chapters 1-2
Jan 11, 15, 17	Piaget	Chapter 4
Jan 18, 22	Piaget	Chapter 12
Jan 24		CourseWare 1
Jan 25		CourseWare 2
Jan 29, 31	Information Processing Strategies	Chapter 5 & 6
Feb 1		CourseWare 3
Feb 5, 7	Perceptual Development	Chapter 7
Feb 8		CourseWare 4
Feb 12, 14	Spatial Cognition	Chapter 8
Feb 15		CourseWare 5
Feb 19, 21, 22	No class: Spring break	
Feb 26	Representation & Language (not on midterm)	Chapters 9 & 11
Feb 28, 29	MIDTERM EXAM (30%)	
Mar 4	Representation & Language (continued)	Chapters 9 & 11
Mar 6		CourseWare 6
Mar 7		CourseWare 7
Mar 11, 13, 14	Memory	Chapter 10
Mar 18		CourseWare 8

Mar 20		CourseWare 9
Mar 21	Good Friday—no class	
Mar 25, 27	Sociocultural Perspectives & Schooling	Chapters 3 & 14
Mar 28		CourseWare 10
Apr 1		CourseWare 11
April 3	Individual differences & Intelligence	Chapters 15 & 16
April 4	TA hour	
April 8	Catch-up & Integrative Discussion	Epilogue
Apr 11 - 29	FINAL EXAM (35%)	

Presentation & Essay Dates 2008

CourseWare #	Presentation Date	Essay Due Date (@ 9:30 a.m.)
1	Thursday January 24	Thursday February 7
2	Friday January 25	Friday February 1
3	Friday February 1	Friday February 8
4	Friday February 8	Friday February 15
5	Friday February 15	Friday February 8
6	Thursday March 6	Thursday March 13
7	Friday March 7	Friday March 14
8	Tuesday March 18	Tuesday March 11
9	Thursday March 20	Thursday March 13
10	Friday March 28	Thursday March 20
11	Tuesday April 1	Tuesday March 25