

Syllabus

Psych 3GG3E: Essentials of Developmental Psychology

Spring term: May 4-June 19, 2009

Lectures: Mondays & Wednesdays 1:30-4:30pm, PC 335

Instructor: Heather Poole

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Phone number: 905-525-9140, ext. 24784

Office: PC 329

Office hours: I will not be holding regular office hours. If you'd like to meet with me, send me an email and I'll be happy to set up an appointment.

PLEASE NOTE: Email is highly recommended as the method of contacting me and will be answered within 24 hours. Please put something meaningful in the subject line, such as your name and date (e.g. Jones, February 10) to help me keep track of which emails have been answered. I check phone messages periodically (not daily), and am not able to return long distance phone calls.

Required Textbook:

- 1) Slater, A. & Bremner, G. (2003). An Introduction to Developmental Psychology. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing.

Note: this textbook was used by students who took this course in the Fall 2008 term. You may be able to purchase it used from one of them or from the bookstore.

Website:

This course has a WebCT website (www.ltrc.mcmaster.ca/webct/). You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with 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.

Your textbook also has a website (www.blackwellpublishing.com/slater/students.htm) which has several useful features, including sample multiple choice questions.

Course Overview & Objectives:

This course will introduce you to a variety of topics relating to developmental psychology. We will discuss developmental issues of infancy, childhood, and adolescence. Our discussions will cover biological and environmental influences on development.

Course Process:

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

Exams will cover material from lectures, class discussions, assignments, the textbook, and readings. Thus, class attendance and completion of assignments and textbook readings are crucial. If you miss a class, you are responsible for all information presented in class and should obtain notes from a classmate for any classes you miss.

Evaluation:

- Class participation (10%)
- 1 assignment (20%)
- 1 midterm exam (30%)
- 1 final exam (40%)

*** Bonus Marks: If you sign up and participate in a 1-hour or two half-hour psychology experiments, you will earn 1% bonus on your final grade in the course. You may earn up to 2% by participating in a total of 2 hours of experiments (maximum of 2% bonus). ***

Grading Details:

There will be one assignment for this course, worth 20% of your grade. 10% of your grade will be assigned according to your participation in class discussions. Participation will be assessed in terms of both quantity and quality.

The midterm will test all material covered before May 25 and will be worth 30% of your grade. It will be held during class time.

The final exam, worth 40% of your grade, will be cumulative (it will test all material covered in the course). The final exam will occur on the last day of class (June 17).

The exams will cover lecture material and assigned textbook material equally. The format of the exams will be discussed in class. If any exam does not take place on the scheduled date due to weather, facilities, or other unforeseen circumstance, it will take place at the beginning of the next scheduled class.

Requests for deferment of exams will generally not be accepted without permission from your Dean's office. If you do not complete an assignment or if you 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 of the proper procedure to follow within your faculty to submit the necessary documentation.

The instructor reserves the right to alter the evaluation scheme if necessary.

A percentage marking system will be used for the individual components of the course. The final percent will be converted to a letter grade using the Senate-approved transformation. In converting the final percent to a letter grade, any values less than 0.5 will be rounded down, and any values greater or equal to 0.5 will be rounded up. For example, 49.4 = F and 49.5 = D-.

The instructor reserves the right to adjust final marks up or down, on an individual basis, in light of special circumstances and/or the individual's total performance in the course. Details of the course requirements may be subject to change. If requirements are altered, a revised course outline will be posted on the class website and the details will be announced in class.

Policies

McMaster University Policy for Medicals and Deferred Exams

Please refer to the Office of the Associate Dean of Science (Studies) for important information regarding missed course work, medical exemptions (including the McMaster medical certificate), exam conflicts, and deferred exams.

Academic Integrity

Please be aware of the Academic Integrity Policy, available online at:

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/univsec/policy/AcademicIntegrity.pdf>

Any student who infringes on one of the resolutions in this policy will be treated according to the published policy.

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour 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 behaviour can result in serious consequences, eg. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of 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 kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/univsec/policy/AcademicIntegrity.pdf>

The following examples illustrate only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Copying or using unauthorized aids on tests and examinations.
2. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
3. Improper collaboration in group work.

Lecture, Assignment, and Exam Schedule

***This schedule is tentative, and topics may be added and deleted as needed.*

*Please see the course website for the most recent updates to this schedule.***

Date	Lecture topic	Relevant text chapters	Relevant readings (posted on WebCT)
May 4	Introduction to development, Methods	1	None
May 6	Theories, Nature vs. Nurture	2, 3	TBA
May 11	Prenatal development, Perceptual development	4, 5	TBA
May 13	Perceptual development, Emotional development	5, 6	TBA
May 18	Victoria Day – NO CLASS		TBA
May 20	Cognitive development	8	TBA
May 25	MIDTERM		
May 27	Guest speaker: Genetic counseling		TBA
June 1	Language	9	TBA
June 3	Theory of mind, Reading	10, 11	TBA
June 8	Memory development and Eye-witness testimony	12	TBA
June 10	Play and peer relations	13	TBA
June 15	Adolescence	15, 16	TBA
June 17	FINAL EXAM		