

Syllabus

Psych 3GG3E: Essentials of Developmental Psychology

Fall term: September 4 to December 17, 2008

Lectures: Mondays 7:00-10:00pm, JHE 376

Instructor: Heather Poole

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Office: PC 327

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 promptly. Please put something meaningful in the subject line, such as your name and date (eg. Jones, Jan 17) 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 Textbooks:

- 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.

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. 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 textbooks, but will not duplicate the textbooks. Class time will be used to expand on and clarify concepts from the textbooks through the presentation of additional material and discussion.

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

Evaluation:

- 2 assignments
- 1 midterm exam
- 1 final exam

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

Grading Details:

There will be two assignments for this course. Assignment A will be worth 10% of your grade. Assignment B will be worth 25% of your grade.

The midterm will test all material covered before October 27 and will be worth 25% 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 be scheduled by the registrar's office.

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.

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.

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 Dishonesty

Please be aware of the Statement on Academic Ethics and the Senate Resolutions on Academic Dishonesty, as found in the Senate Policy Statements distributed at registration, available in the Senate office, and available online at:

http://www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac_integrity.htm

Any student who infringes on one of these resolutions 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/academicintegrity>.

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 reader chapters
Sept. 8	Introduction to development, Methods, Theories	1, 2	3, 4
Sept. 15	Nature vs. Nurture, Prenatal development	3, 4	6, 9
Sept. 22	Prenatal development, Perceptual development	4, 5	11 (optional), 12, 12A
Sept. 29	Emotional development	6	28
Oct. 6	Cognitive development (Assignment A due)	8	15, 18
Oct. 13	THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS		
Oct. 20	Language	9	21, 10
Oct. 27	MIDTERM		
Nov. 3	Theory of mind, Reading	10, 11	19, 26
Nov. 10	Memory development and Eye-witness testimony	12	17
Nov. 17	Play and peer relations (Assignment B due)	13	30
Nov. 24	Adolescence	15, 16	31
Dec. 1	Practical issues, Review session	17	