

PSYCHOLOGY 3ii3 Cognitive Development
January – April, 2010

- Classes:** Mondays 9:30 – 10:20, Tuesdays 10:30 – 11:20, Thursdays 9:30 – 10:20
- Instructor:** Dr. T.L. Lewis
Psychology - Room 110
E-mail: LewisTL@mcmaster.ca
- Tutors:** Xiaoqing Gao for Section A (e-mail: gaox5@mcmaster.ca)
Mark Vida for Section B (e-mail: vidamd@mcmaster.ca)
- Text:** *Children's Thinking* by David Bjorklund, 4th edition.
- Website:** <http://www.science.mcmaster.ca/psychology/undergraduate/courses/121-3ii3-cogdevelopment.html>
- Evaluation:** Midterm test: February 22nd and 23rd, 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 22nd), 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 23rd), you will be responsible for all assigned material in the Original Articles. The tests will consist of long-answer questions.

Group Presentation (15%). Group presentations will be based on the assigned Original Articles. Each Original Article is based on a topic relevant to the preceding lectures and assigned readings from the text. 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 Original Articles 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 Original Article 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 (15%). Each member of the group will write an **individual** 1,500 word essay revolving around the Original Article that your group presented. The essay is to be a scholarly and thorough examination of research on a narrow topic related to your assigned Original Article. 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 on the assigned date are counted as 1 day late.

Participation: (5%). Students are expected to have read the assigned Original Article 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. Absence for any reason will be counted as a missed class, unless the office of the Associate Dean of your faculty/programme provides written approval for the absence.

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.

Grading Policy:

The instructors reserve the right to adjust final marks up or down, on an individual basis, in the light of special circumstances and/or the individual's total performance in the course. All written work will be evaluated on content, grammar/spelling, clarity of writing, presentation, and organization.

Academic Integrity:

See 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. Any instance of Plagiarism will be dealt with in the most severe terms allowable by the Senate Policy on such matters.

Missed Work Policy:

All excuses for missed exams must be submitted through the office of the Associate Dean of your faculty/programme within one week of the original due date of the missed work. After that time, students must appeal to have an exemption. It is also your responsibility to speak with your professor as soon as possible. Senate regulations for petitions for special consideration have always required that: "40. The student shall make a prompt and timely request for special consideration." No requests for exemption will be accepted after one month. In the case of a missed midterm, a make-up date will be determined for each student. The format of the make-up exam will be determined by the professor depending on the number of students affected. An oral exam is a distinct possibility.

Please note:

Brief lecture outlines will be available on the course website prior to each class. Check the website regularly for announcements. All e-mail communications will be to your McMaster e-mail account.

Course Schedule

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
Jan 4, 5, 7	Introduction	Preface, Chapters 1-2
Jan 11, 12, 14	Piaget	Chapter 4
Jan 18, 19	Piaget	Chapter 12
Jan 21		Original Article 1
Jan 25		Original Article 2
Jan 26, 28	Information Processing Strategies	Chapter 5 & 6
Feb 1		Original Article 3
Feb 2, 4, 8, 9	Perceptual Development	Chapter 7
Feb 11		Original Article 4
Feb 15, 16, 18	No class: Spring break	
Feb 22, 23	MIDTERM EXAM (30%)	
Feb 25, Mar 1	Spatial Cognition	Chapter 8
Mar 2		Original Article 5
Mar 4, 8	Representation & Language	Chapters 9 & 11
Mar 9		Original Article 6
Mar 11		Original Article 7
Mar 15, 16, 18	Memory	Chapter 10
Mar 22		Original Article 8
Mar 23		Original Article 9
Mar 25, 29	Sociocultural Perspectives & Schooling	Chapters 3 & 14
Mar 30		Original Article 10
Apr 1		Original Article 11

April 5,6	Individual differences & Intelligence	Chapters 15 & 16
April 8	Catch-up	
Apr 10 - 28	FINAL EXAM (35%)	

Presentation & Essay Dates 2008

Original Article #	Presentation Date	Essay Due Date (@ 9:30 a.m.)
1	Thursday January 21	Thursday February 4
2	Monday January 25	Thursday February 4
3	Monday February 1	Monday February 8
4	Thursday February 11	Thursday February 4
5	Tuesday March 2	Tuesday March 9
6	Tuesday March 9	Tuesday March 2
7	Thursday March 11	Thursday March 4
8	Monday March 22	Monday March 15
9	Tuesday March 23	Tuesday March 16
10	Tuesday March 30	Tuesday March 23
11	Thursday April 1	Thursday March 25