**Introduction to DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY**  
Term 1 2010  
Monday, Thursday 9:30 to 10:20  
Tuesday 10:30 to 11:20  
MDCL 1105

**Instructor:** Professor M.D. Rutherford  
**Office:** room 105

**Teaching assistants:**  
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**Objectives:** The aim of the course is to introduce students to basic theory, research findings and methods of investigation in developmental psychology. By the end of the term students should be able to: describe the important theories and research findings in developmental psychology; discuss the theories and key findings covered in the course, discuss their relevance to everyday life; and understand and think critically about issues and research in developmental psychology. During the course we will examine, firstly, themes, methods and findings in developmental research, and secondly, the ways in which empirical research can help us understand how developmental processes influence people.

**Evaluation:** Marks in this class will be based on two midterm exams, one final exam, and three workshops. Each workshop is worth 2% of your final mark. Because the workshop is interactive, no make-up is possible. Each of two in-class midterms (October 12th and November 8th) is worth 27% of the total for this course and the final exam is worth 40%. The final is cumulative. Exams are multiple-choice; please bring a No. 2 pencil to each exam. **Do not miss class on the date of a midterm exam.**

**NOTE:** If any exam does not take place on the scheduled date due to weather, facilities, or any other unforeseen circumstance **THE EXAM WILL TAKE PLACE AT OUR NEXT MEETING.**

**McMaster’s Grading Scale:**

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<tr>
<th>90-100</th>
<th>85-89</th>
<th>80-84</th>
<th>77-79</th>
<th>73-76</th>
<th>70-72</th>
<th>67-69</th>
<th>63-66</th>
<th>60-62</th>
<th>57-59</th>
<th>53-56</th>
<th>50-52</th>
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<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>A</td>
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The instructor reserves the right to adjust the final marks up or down, on an individual basis, in the light of special circumstances and/or the individual’s overall performance in the course. Students will be assigned a grade from the McMaster University Grading Scale between 0 and 12 based on an overall assessment by the professor on the work submitted.

**Policy Reminder:** The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

Please note 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. **Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g. 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, specifically Appendix 3, at [http://www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac_integrity.htm](http://www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac_integrity.htm)

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

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

September 9: Organizational Meeting; Course Overview

September 13: What is developmental psychology? READ PP. 2 – 11 AND 84 – 91

September 14: An evolutionary perspective on development? READ PP. 24 – 38

September 16: A modern understanding of evolution:


September 27: Workshop 1

September 28: Perceptual Development: READ PP. 53 – 58 AND 176 - 178

September 30: Perceptual Development: READ PP. 178 - 199

October 4: Conceptual Development: READ p. 260 – 266

October 5: Conceptual Development:

October 7: Midterm Review

October 11: HAPPY THANKSGIVING

October 12: **FIRST MIDTERM EXAM IN CLASS**

October 14: Introduction to Core Knowledge READ PP. 154 – 164 AND 130 – 136 AND 199 - 208

October 18: Core Knowledge Part I: Space and Biology READ PP. 273 – 286

October 19: Core Knowledge Part I: Numbers READ pp. 286 - 293

October 21: Core Knowledge II: Social READ pp. 424- 426 AND 208 - 211 AND 136 – 142

October 25: Workshop 2

October 26: Core Knowledge II: Social READ PP. 341 – 357

October 28: Core Knowledge II: Social READ PP. 357 - 378 AND 266- 272

November1: Development of Language: READ PP. 216 - 223
November 2: Development of Language: pp 223 – 241

November 4: Midterm Review

**November 8: SECOND MIDTERM EXAM IN CLASS**

November 9: Development of Language READ PP. 241 - 251


November 15: Attachment: READ PP. 423 - 436

November 16: Social Contexts for Development READ PP. 504 – 539

November 18: Gender Development: READ PP. 584 - 596

November 22: Workshop 3

November 23: Gender Development: READ PP. 596 – 607

November 25: Gender Development: READ PP. 607 – 619

November 29: Moral Development: READ PP. 544 – 556

November 30: Moral Development: READ PP. 556 – 567

December 2: Moral Development: READ PP. 567 – 579

December 6: Final Review

**Final Exam: TBA**
Communication policy:
E-mail communications must originate from your designated McMaster e-mail account (either mcmaster.ca account or Avenue to Learn account). Should we need to communicate with you about individual matters, the e-mail will be sent to your mcmaster.ca account. You should monitor this account regularly. E-mail sent from third-party providers (yahoo, hotmail, cogeco, sympatico, etc.) may not be received. We have this policy for three reasons: 1. reduce the amount of incoming spam to our accounts; 2. ensure that we know with whom we are communicating; 3. teach the professional use of e-mail. Please note that instructors cannot return long distance telephone calls.

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access some of the electronic components of this course, information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

Any change in the course outline will be posted on the webpage and the details will be announced in class. This is the 2nd version of the course outline.

Problems with the final exam schedule must be addressed to the Office of the Registrar.