

**SYLLABUS**  
**PSYCHOLOGY 2AA3: CHILD DEVELOPMENT**  
**Department of Psychology, Neuroscience, and Behaviour**  
**McMaster University**  
**Spring Term 2015**

Time: Monday/Wednesday 1:30pm-4:20pm

Location: BSB/B135

**Instructor:** Laura Cirelli (Ph.D Candidate)  
Email: [cirellk@mcmaster.ca](mailto:cirellk@mcmaster.ca) (include 2AA3 in the subject line)  
Office: PC-128; Office hours: TBA or by appointment.

**Please note:** This syllabus – including scheduling, topic order, topics themselves, and assessment strategy – is subject to change if circumstances warrant.

**Course Description:** This course is designed to introduce you to research and theory in developmental psychology, covering the years from birth to the beginnings of adolescence. We will discuss the major topics of interest to developmental psychologists, including perceptual, cognitive, social, emotional, and moral development. We will learn about various methodological techniques used in developmental psychology, and discuss major theories.

**Textbook:** Kail, R. V. & Barnfield, A. (2015). *Children and their development 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Ed.* This textbook comes with a digital learning system called “MyPsychLab”. If you do not buy a new copy of this textbook, then you may not have access to this learning system, which may put you at a disadvantage when it comes to independent learning of textbook materials. Certain page numbers may have also changed between versions of the text. Essentially, use other editions at your own risk!

**E-mail Policy:** E-mail must originate from your designated McMaster e-mail account (*not your Avenue account*).

**Website Policy:** This course has an *Avenue to Learn* website. You are expected to check this website with regularity. Announcements will be posted regularly (under “news”) about administrative aspects of the course (e.g., office hours, tests). It is your responsibility to keep up with the information provided on this site.

Use of the website’s **discussion boards** is strongly encouraged, and, in the case of non-private inquiries (e.g., questions about course content and the running of this course, but *not* emails reporting illness or other private matters), these are preferred to email communication. Questions asked on the discussion board allow other students with the same questions the chance to see the answer. Discussion board questions also provide a learning experience for students who wish to answer these questions themselves.

Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private 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.

**Assessment:** Your final mark will be based on your performance on one midterm and one final exam. The test that each student scores highest on will be worth 55% of their final grade, and the other will be worth 45% of their final grade. The midterms will cover lecture material *and* assigned readings, including readings on topics not discussed in class (yes, you must read all assigned readings). The final exam will be cumulative.

**Final Grade Calculations:** Your final grade will be converted to a letter grade, according to the following scheme:

<u>Percentage (Grade)</u> 90-100 (A+)	<u>Percentage (Grade)</u> 77-79 (B+)	<u>Percentage (Grade)</u> 67-69 (C+)	<u>Percentage (Grade)</u> 57-59 (D+)
85-89 (A)	73-76 (B)	63-66 (C)	53-56 (D)
80-84 (A-)	70-72 (B-)	60-62 (C-)	50-52 (D-)
			0-49 (F)

**Note:** The instructor reserves the right to adjust final marks up *or down*, on an individual basis, in the light of special circumstances. Final grades may also be adjusted up or down on a class-wide basis depending on overall performance.

**Academic Integrity:** You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior 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 behavior can result in serious consequences, e.g., a grade of zero (0) on an assignment, loss of course credit with a notation on the transcript (“grade 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 types of academic dishonesty, please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, at <http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity>.

#### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

Date	Topic	Readings
M – May 2	The Science of Child Development	Chapter 1
W – May 4	Genetics and the Developing Nervous System	Chapter 2; Chapter 4.3
M – May 9	Perceptual Development	Chapter 5
W – May 11	Theories of Cognitive Development	Chapter 6
M – May 16	Cognitive Processes	Chapter 7.1 and 7.2
W – May 18	Language Development, Part 1	Chapter 9
M – May 23	<b>VICTORIA DAY, NO CLASS</b>	
W – May 25	<b>MIDTERM 1</b>	
M – May 30	Language Development, Part 2	Chapter 9
W – June 1	Emotional Development	Chapter 10
M – June 6	Understanding Self and Others	Chapter 11
W – June 8	Moral Understanding and Behaviour	Chapter 12
M – June 13	Social Influences	Chapter 14
W – June 15	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	

A note on dates and deadlines: 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 an 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.