

Syllabus
Psychology 3B03: Special Populations
Department of Psychology, Neuroscience, and Behaviour
McMaster University
Fall Term 2017

Time: Monday 3:30pm-4:40pm, Tuesday 4:30pm-5:30pm, and Thursday 3:30pm-4:30pm

Location: ITB-AB 102

Instructor: Professor Vivian Lee, Ph.D.

Email: leev9@mcmaster.ca (include 3B03 in the subject line)

Office: Rm 201A, McMaster Innovation Park; Office hours: By appointment

Teaching Assistants: Sophia Roth, Email: roths1@mcmaster.ca

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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: The course is intended to provide an overview of theory and research in areas of atypical physical, behavioural, and emotional development in children, including topics related to developmental disability, perceptual or cognitive impairments, and behavioural and socio-emotional disorders. The course will include lecture materials drawn from the textbook, research literature, videos, and various empirical studies and guests presented in class.

Textbook: Abnormal Child and Adolescent Psychology-DSM-5 Update (8th Edition) by Rita Wicks Nelson and Allen C. Israel. A copy of the textbook will be available at Thode Library.

Email Policy: All emails must originate from your designated McMaster email account (not your Avenue account or non-university sanctioned account). Please include PSYCH 3B03 in the subject line.

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, grades). It is your responsibility to keep up with the information provided on Avenue.

Use of the website’s discussion boards is strongly encouraged. Questions asked on the discussion board allow other students with the same question the chance to see the answer. Please note that discussions boards should only be used for non-private inquiries (e.g. course content), as private inquiries (e.g. reporting illness or other private matters) should be communicated using emails.

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, three short concept assignments, and a cumulative final examination.

Grading:

Assessment	Percentage Worth	Due Date
Assignment 1	5%	October 5 th , 2017 at midnight
Midterm Exam	25%	October 19, 2017 in class
Assignment 2	10%	November 16, 2017 at midnight
Assignment 3	10%	December 5 th , 2017 at midnight
Final Exam	50%	TBA

Exams: The midterm and the final exam will cover lecture material (e.g. lecture notes, videos, guest lecture notes) and assigned readings, including readings on topics from the textbook that are not discussed in class. The format of the exams will be a combination of multiple choice, fill in the blank, and short answer questions. The final exam will be cumulative.

Assignments: The short concept assignments will be one or two page written assignments that ask the student to review or discuss material that reinforces content taught in class and in assigned readings. All assignments will be submitted online via the Avenue to Learn portal. All assignments are due by midnight of the due date. Late assignments will result in 10% deduction from the final assignment grade for each day it is past due (including weekends). Therefore, if the assignment is 10 days past due then your grade for that assignment will be 0%.

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

<u>Percentage (Grade)</u>	<u>Percentage (Grade)</u>	<u>Percentage (Grade)</u>	<u>Percentage (Grade)</u>
90-100 (A+)	77-79 (B+)	67-69 (C+)	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 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, 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
Week 1	Course Overview	No Readings
Week 2	Foundations	Chapter 1
Week 3	The Developmental Psychopathology Perspective	Chapter 2
Week 4	Biological and Environmental Contexts of Psychopathology	Chapter 3
Week 5	Research: Its Role and Methods Written Assignment # 1 Due October 5th	Chapter 4
Week 6	FALL READING WEEK	NO CLASSES
Week 7	Classification, Assessment and Intervention Midterm on October 19th (in class)	Chapter 5
Week 8	Anxiety and Related Disorders	Chapter 6
Week 9	Mood Disorders	Chapter 7
Week 10	Conduct Disorders	Chapter 8
Week 11	Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorders Written Assignment # 2 Due November 16th	Chapter 9
Week 12	Language and Learning Disabilities	Chapter 10
Week 13	Intellectual Disabilities	Chapter 11
Week 14	Autism Spectrum Disorder and Schizophrenia Written Assignment # 3 Due December 5th	Chapter 12
Final Exam will be cumulative. Final date, time, and location TBA		

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 medication becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with an explanation and opportunity to comment on chances. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites (i.e. Avenue to Learn) weekly during the term and to note any changes.