

**Essentials of
DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY
Term 1 2017**

**Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 12:30 to 1:20
ITB AB102**

Instructor: Professor M.D. Rutherford

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Text: *Developmental Psychology: An Evolutionary Perspective, 3rd edition* by M.D. Rutherford. (ISBN: 978-1-77330-246-1). The textbook is available at TopHat.com.

Objectives: The aim of the course is to introduce students to theory, research findings and methods of investigation in developmental psychology. By the end of the term students should be able to: discuss the theories and key developmental psychology findings covered in the course, discuss their relevance to everyday life; and understand and think critically about issues and research in developmental psychology.

Evaluation: Marks will be based on two midterm exams, one final exam, and Audience Response (TopHat) participation. Audience Response participation is worth a possible 6 marks, and you will be awarded a portion of those 6 marks, based on your correct in-class responses throughout the term. Each of two in-class midterms (**October 3rd** and **November 7th**) is worth 27% of the total for this course and the final exam is worth 40% (of which 8% is an essay question). The midterms and final are cumulative. Exams include multiple-choice questions, so please bring a No. 2 pencil to each. **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:

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

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

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 5: Course Overview: What is developmental psychology? READ Chapter 1

September 6: Current Issues and Organizing themes: READ Chapter 1

September 8: Perspectives on development: READ Chapter 2

September 12: Methods of developmental psychology: READ Chapter 2

September 13: A modern understanding of evolution: READ Chapter 3

September 15: **Workshop 1**

September 19: Conception and Early Development: READ Chapter 3

September 20: Heritability: READ Chapter 4

September 22: IQ and Heritability: READ Chapter 4

September 26: Perceptual Development: READ Chapter 5

September 27: Perceptual Development: READ Chapter 5

September 29: **Midterm Review**

October 3: **FIRST MIDTERM EXAM IN CLASS**

October 4: Conceptual Development: READ Chapter 6

October 6: Conceptual Development: READ Chapter 6

October 10 - 13: FALL BREAK

October 17: The Psychology of Language: READ Chapter 7

October 18: Development of Language: READ Chapter 7

October 20: Language: Critical Periods and Special Cases: READ Chapter 7

October 24: **Workshop 2**

October 25: Knowledge acquisition: READ Chapter 8

October 27: Core Knowledge: READ Chapter 8

October 31: The Social Brain: READ Chapter 9

November 1: Social Categories and Theory of Mind: READ Chapter 9

November 3: **Midterm Review**

November 7: **SECOND MIDTERM EXAM IN CLASS**

November 8: Emotional Development READ Chapter 10

November 10: Personality: READ Chapter 10

November 14: Attachment: READ Chapter 10

November 15: Family and Parenting: READ Chapter 11

November 17: Family and other relationships READ Chapter 11

November 21: **Workshop 3**

November 22: Sex and Gender: READ Chapter 12

November 24: Sex and Gender: READ Chapter 12

November 28: Gender Development: Special Cases: READ Chapter 12

November 29: Classic Moral Psychology: READ Chapter 13

December 1: Evolution of Morality: READ Chapter 13

December 5: Moral Development: READ Chapter 13

December 6: **Final Review**

Final Exam: TBA

Communication policy:

For e-mail communications, Avenue to Learn is preferred. Should we need to communicate with you about individual matters, we will send it to your Avenue to Learn account. You should monitor this account regularly.

Students should be aware that, when they access some of the electronic components of this course using Avenue to Learn, 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. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure.

Please note that instructors cannot return long distance telephone calls.

Any change in the course outline will be posted on the Avenue to Learn page and the details will be announced in class.

This is the 1st version of the course outline.

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

Audience Response System: TopHat

We will be using the Top Hat (www.tophat.com) audience response system in class. You will be able to submit answers to in-class questions using Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, laptops, or through text message. You can visit the Top Hat Overview (<https://success.tophat.com/s/article/Student-Top-Hat-Overview-and-Getting-Started-Guide>) within the Top Hat Success Center which outlines how you will register for a Top Hat account, as well as providing a brief overview to get you up and running on the system. Should you require assistance with Top Hat at any time, due to the fact that they require specific user information to troubleshoot these issues, please contact their Support Team directly by way of email (support@tophat.com), the in-app support button, or by calling 1-888-663-5491.