

**Syllabus**  
**Psychology 3B03: Special Populations**  
**Department of Psychology, Neuroscience, and Behaviour**  
**McMaster University**  
**Fall Term 2018**

**Time:** Monday 3:30pm-4:40pm, Tuesday 4:30pm-5:30pm, and Thursday 3:30pm-4:30pm  
**Location:** JHE 264

**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:** Victoria Stead, Email: steadvi@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.

**Prerequisites:** One of PSYCH 2AP3, 3GG3, 3N03; and either ISCI 2A18 or six units from LIFE SCI 2C03, 2D03, PNB 2XA3, 2XB3, 2XC3, PSYCH 2E03, 2F03, 2H03, 2N03, 2NF3, 2TT3; and one of ARTS&SCI 2R03, 2R06, HTH SCI 1F03, 2A03, PNB 2XE3, PSYCH 2RA3, SOC SCI 2J03, STATS 1A03, 2B03, 2D03; or PSYCH 2AA3 or 2AP3, and SOC SCI 2J03, 2K03; and registration in the Honours B.A. Social Psychology program

**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 (i.e. @gmail.com, or @hotmail.com) sanctioned account). Please include PSYCH 3B03 in the subject line. Emails that do not originate from a McMaster email account will not be answered.

**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 “announcements”) 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, two short concept assignments, and a cumulative final examination.

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Percentage Worth</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Assignment 1	10%	October 4, 2018 at 3:30PM
Midterm Exam	25%	October 16, 2018 at 4:30PM
Assignment 2	15%	November 13, 2018 at 4:30PM
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~~ before class 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.

## Tentative Schedule and Readings

Date	Topic	Readings
Week 1	Course Overview and Foundations	Chapter 1
Week 2	The Developmental Psychopathology Perspectives	Chapter 2
Week 3	Biological and Environmental Contexts of Psychopathology	Chapter 3
Week 4	Research: Its Role and Methods	Chapter 4
Week 5	Classification, Assessment, and Intervention	Chapter 5
Week 6	READING WEEK	No Readings
Week 7	Anxiety and Related Disorders	Chapter 6
Week 8	Mood Disorders	Chapter 7
Week 9	Conduct Disorders	Chapter 8
Week 10	Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorders	Chapter 9
Week 11	Language and Learning Disabilities	Chapter 10
Week 12	Intellectual Disabilities	Chapter 11
Week 13	Autism Disorder	Chapter 12
Week 14	Review Sessions	NA
<b>Final Exam will be cumulative. Final date, time, and location are TBA</b>		

### MSAF Rules:

Students should make themselves aware of the policies surrounding the McMaster Student Absence Forms, and contact Dr. Lee as soon as possible. Please note, if you are planning on submitting a MSAF in this course for missed work or assessments (including exams), you must submit your MSAF notice AND your personal follow-up email to Dr. Lee within 24 hours of the original due date. Otherwise, late marks will apply. Any missed work will be either be postponed to a later date within a week of the due date or adjusted based on the instructor's discretion.

<http://mcmaster.ca/msaf/>

<http://www.science.mcmaster.ca/associatedean/>

### SAS Accommodations:

Students with official SAS Accommodations are welcome to discuss their needs with Dr. Lee or any of the TAs so that we can provide appropriate supports. Students with accommodations relating to exams (i.e. private rooms for exams, extra time for exams) are highly encouraged to make alternative arrangements with SAS at least 2 weeks before the scheduled exams. SAS proctored exams must be completed within 24 hours of original exam date.

Students with accommodations relating to assignments and presentations (i.e. adjusting due dates, extra time for assignments etc.) must discuss these accommodations with Dr. Lee at least 24 hours prior to the original due date of each assignment. Otherwise, late marks will apply.

**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>.

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The following illustrates three forms of academic dishonesty but they are not limited to these examples:

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.

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 becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with an explanation and opportunity to comment on changes. 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.

**Final note:** For students who have read this syllabus in full, please send Dr. Vivian Lee a picture of your favourite animal meme via your McMaster email by September 7, 2018. Students who send an email with an animal meme by the due date will receive 1% bonus mark on their overall final grade.