

PSYCHOLOGY 2110.03M
Developmental Psychology
Course Director: Jessica Schroeder, MA

Winter 2012

Wednesdays from 7:00 pm until 10:00 pm in Vari Hall C

Course Website: www.moodle.yorku.ca

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Course description

This course examines contemporary research and important theoretical works regarding biological, cognitive, emotional, and social development from birth through adolescence. The primary goal of the course is to gain familiarity with the theory, research, and current debates within the study of developmental psychology. A secondary goal is to encourage reflection to help students think critically about the information that they come across in academic, professional, and personal situations. Major themes throughout the course include: interaction between genetic and environmental influences on development, stage versus continual development, and factors that lead to optimal development.

Learning objectives

- To build an understanding of the fundamental concepts of developmental psychology that will help with future courses in psychology and across disciplines
- To support an appreciation of the interplay between theory, research, and practice
- To develop an understanding of the assumptions, limitations, and controversies within the field of developmental psychology
- To build foundational skills in research methodology, including: the development of research questions, ethical practice, and critical review of research
- To engage in effective communication about central topics within the course toward a range of target audiences
- To encourage future community members, educators, parents, and policy-makers to think critically about the information they encounter to be able to maximize the development and success of all children

Textbook

Shaffer, D. R., Kipp, K., Wood, E., & Willoughby, T. (2010). *Developmental Psychology: Childhood and Adolescence, Third Canadian Edition*. Toronto: Thomson Nelson. [also available as an eBook]

An optional study guide to accompany the textbook can also be found at the bookstore.

Course requirements

Students must have received a minimum of a C grade in AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 1010 6.00 **or** AK/HH/PSYC 2410 6.00 in order to take this course.

Evaluation

	Due Date	Worth
Test 1	Jan. 25	25%
Test 2	Mar. 7	25%
Final Exam	Exam period April 4-20	30%
Weekly Moodle Questions	Due at start of class	2%
Submitted Moodle Questions	Feb. 8	6%
	Feb. 29	6%
	Mar. 28	6%

Tests

All tests and the exam are *non-cumulative* and include multiple-choice and short-answer questions. All material from the textbook, lectures, guest lectures, videos, and demonstrations will be covered. Students will be required to show their student ID during each test. The test schedule is based on York University's Senate Policy on Religious Observance. It is the responsibility of the student to anticipate possible conflicts and contact the TA within *two-weeks* of the test date. Students are expected to be *available* throughout the exam period (April 4-20).

Moodle Questions

Moodle discussion questions provide students with the opportunity to expand on the topics covered in class. At the end of class each week, a question will be posted on the Moodle site. Students will respond to these questions online and the response will be due at the *start of class* the following week. A total of 9 questions will be posted, and students are expected to *complete 7 of them* and submit all of these online. *Four* of the responses will be graded on a pass/fail basis with 0.5% awarded for each completed response for a total of 2%. Students will be expected to *submit an additional printed copy of 3* of their responses for grading. A response to one of questions 1-3 will be submitted at the start of class on February 8th, one of questions 4-6 on February 28th, and one of questions 7-9 on March 28th. Each of these will be worth 6% for a total of 18%. Responses should be about $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 page in length (single-spaced) and should take most students an hour or less to complete. Grammar and spelling errors will not be penalized, unless they substantially impact the clarity of the response. Point form can be used when appropriate. Referencing additional sources is not required, but when sources beyond the textbook and lecture notes are used, they must be referenced in APA 6 format (e.g. Jones & Wong, 2005).

Grading scheme (from the *Common Grading Scheme for Undergraduate Faculties*)

Grade	Percent	Description	Meaning
A+	90-100	Exceptional	Thorough knowledge of concepts and exceptional skill or great originality in their use.
A	80-89	Excellent	Thorough knowledge of concepts and high degree of skill and/or some elements of originality.
B+	75-79	Very Good	Thorough knowledge of concepts and with a fairly high degree of skill in the use of those concepts.
B	70-74	Good	Good level of knowledge of concepts and together with considerable skill in using them.
C+	65-69	Competent	Acceptable level of knowledge of concepts and together with considerable skill in using them.
C	60-64	Fairly Competent	Acceptable level of knowledge of concepts and some skill in using them.
D+	55-59	Passing	Slightly better than minimal knowledge of required concepts with some ability to use them.
D	50-54	Barely Passing	Minimal knowledge of concepts.
E		Marginally Failing	
F		Failing	

Make-up test

The make-up tests will be scheduled at 7:00 on February 7th and March 20th. Students are expected to keep these dates on their schedules clear. The TA must be notified within *48 hours* of the missed test. In an emergency situation, additional documentation will be required if the TA is not notified within 48 hours, or if the make-up test is missed. Failure to provide documentation will result in a failing grade on the missed test. If the make-up test is also missed, the student will write an alternate make-up test comprised of 5-10 essay questions. Additional details can be found at www.yorku.ca/health/psyc/advising_missedtests.html

Late assignments

Late responses to Moodle questions will *not* be accepted. An exception will be made for the *submitted* Moodle assignments. These late assignments will be penalized 5% per day. Please submit late assignments to Agnes Levstik in BSB 281. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the assignment is *stamped with the time and date* by the administrative assistant before it is submitted.

Cheating and plagiarism

Students are expected to familiarize themselves with the *Senate Policy on Academic Honesty* and the *Student Code of Conduct* (found at www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity/students/index.htm). Students are encouraged to complete an online tutorial intended to help students learn about plagiarism and academic honesty. It can be found on the following website: http://www.yorku.ca/tutorial/academic_integrity/index.html

Communication policy

If you have a question about the course material, please post the question on online discussion. Please refer to the course syllabus and the course website *before* contacting your TA or course director. When sending emails to the course director or TA, please include “PSYC2110:” followed by a very brief description of the issue (e.g. “PSYC2110: question about assignment”). If these instructions are followed, you can expect to receive a response within 72 hours during the work week (i.e. Monday-Friday).

Course Schedule

Date	Topics	Chapter	Assignments Due
January 4	Introduction and Theoretical Bases	1	
January 11	Theoretical Bases and Genetic Influences	2 & 3	Q 1
January 18	Prenatal and Physical Development	4 & 5	Q 2
January 25	Test #1-Theories and Foundations	1-5	
February 1	Perception and Cognition	6 & 7	Q 3
February 8	Cognition	8	Q 4 / Submit Q (1-3)
February 15	Intelligence	9	Q 5
February 29	Language	10	Q 6 / Submit Q (4-6)
March 7	Test #2-Cognition and Language	6-10	
March 14	Emotion, Attachment, Social	11 & 12	Q 7
March 21	Gender and Moral	13 & 14	Q 8
March 28	Family and Environment	15 & 16	Q 9 / Submit Q (7-9)
April 4 – 20	Final-Social, Personality, Environment	11-16	

Other important administrative dates

January 4 - First day of class

Feb 18-24 - Reading Week

March 9 - Last day to drop without getting a grade

April 2 - Last day to submit coursework

April 4-20 - Final Exam (Date and location TBA)