



Psychology 3130A – Developmental Psychopathology
Department of Psychology
Spring 2017

Location: MWF; 2:00-2:50 pm; PE261

Course Dropbox: adjacent to C866

Instructor:

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Course Description:

Psychology 3130A is intended to give students the opportunity to expand on the material covered at the second-year level by providing an in-depth introduction to the field of developmental psychopathology (the scientific study of atypical behaviour in children and adolescents). Developmental psychopathologists view atypical behaviour as normative development gone awry; therefore, atypical behaviours are evaluated within a stage-salient context. In keeping with this theme, the course is organized in a chronological fashion (i.e., from conception through to adolescence), and a wide range of topics will be discussed (e.g., genetic disorders, perinatal events, environmental deprivation, to name a few). **NB:** Students should note that the sociology of mental disorders and mental health in children, current legal policies, counselling for children and adolescents, educational practices for special needs children, clinical diagnostic procedures, and complementary and alternative treatments for childhood behavioural disorders are NOT the focus of this course.

Course Prerequisites and Background Preparation:

The required prerequisites for this course are Psychology 2110A (Introduction to Child Development) and one other 2000-level course in Psychology or Neuroscience (3.0 credit hours). Students who do not have the prerequisites (e.g., verified transfer credits) may be deregistered without warning. In **exceptional circumstances**, a prerequisite waiver will be considered for students who have adequate equivalent background. If you are considering requesting a waiver, you must contact Dr. Forgie prior the end of the add/drop period. Submitting a request for a waiver does not guarantee that you will receive one; each case will be evaluated individually, and you will have to provide supporting documentation for prior courses not taken at the U of L. All students should note that listed prerequisites are the **minimum** requirements for this course. Regardless of specific pre-requisites, all students are expected to have a working knowledge of the scientific approach to understanding human behaviour.

Required Textbook, Readings, and Lecture Notes:

- (1) **Required Textbook**. Northey, M., & Timney, B. (2015). *Making sense in psychology: A student's guide to research and writing* (2nd ed). Don Mills ON: Oxford University Press.
- (2) **Required Readings**. There is no formal textbook for course content. Required readings (e.g., journal articles, book excerpts, online articles, etc.) will be made available on Moodle.
- (3) **Lecture Notes**. A synopsis of slides shown in class will be posted to Moodle **after** each lecture as notes. These notes are abbreviated and should not be considered an adequate substitute for attending class.

Course Rules and Regulations:

You are expected to attend and to arrive on time for every class. Though, everyone (including me) is a bit late every now and then or needs to leave a bit early, once class is in session you are not welcome to disrupt us with your late arrival or early departure. Should you have an ongoing situation that prevents you from doing so, please speak to me prior to the end of add-drop. In addition, all students are expected to have read assigned readings and supplementary materials in advance of each class. Though attendance is not mandatory, you are responsible for any material that is presented in class, whether or not you choose to attend.

Cell phone use is absolutely prohibited during class time (i.e., your phone **MUST** be turned off and stowed away during the class). Should you choose to use your cell phone during the class for any reason, you will be asked to pack up your things and leave the classroom. Likewise, though you are permitted to use a laptop or tablet to take notes, if you choose to engage in off-task activities during class time you will be asked to pack up your things and leave. Unless you are a student with special needs (see below), there is no reason to be doing anything else with your device during the class.

As this is a senior course, it should go without saying that you are expected to be respectful toward your fellow classmates and your professor. Spontaneous discussion is always welcome, but that does not include using the class time for conversation and other activities that are unrelated to the course material or conducting a social chit-chat session when your professor is speaking (or during your classmates' presentations). These behaviours are rude, disrespectful, and disruptive to students and professors alike. In addition, a diversity of viewpoints will inevitably exist in the classroom. Voicing well-reasoned disagreement with others' viewpoints and asking questions is perfectly fine; being combative, intolerant, or disrespectful towards others is not. **NB.** All students are expected to be familiar with the entirety of Part 4 of the current University of Lethbridge Calendar that governs Academic Regulations, Policies, and Program Requirements. In particular, all students should have read and understood Sections 4, 5 and 9. You can access the current calendar for the 2016/2017 academic year at <https://www.uleth.ca/ross/academic-calendar/2016-17>.

Students with Special Needs:

If you have a documented condition that prevents you from fully participating in this course, including evaluation procedures, it is your responsibility to contact me regarding your individual situation. Please note that no accommodations will be given without official notification from the Accommodated Learning Centre (<http://www.uleth.ca/ross/accommodated-learning-centre/>), and not all supports are available for this course (see below).

Copyright, Moodle, and Intellectual Property:

With the exception of information that is freely available on the internet, all course information should be treated as copyright protected. You are free to download and print a **SINGLE** copy of any materials posted for your use within Moodle, and you are free to take your own notes in class and from the readings and other supplementary material (of course!). You are **not permitted** to distribute the information in any form to persons not registered in this course during this semester. Once the information is in your hands, you are responsible for what you do with it and your professor will not be held responsible if you choose to violate the law. The Students' Union maintains a Note Bank for students to turn in their class notes at the end of semester. Stop and think before you turn in your "notes" to any service. You are legally responsible for what you submit. In addition, still photographs, audio recordings, and video recordings of lectures or any other in-class presentations or activities are **strictly prohibited**. This prohibition includes students with special needs. Doing so violates your professor's intellectual property rights and the privacy of your classmates who have not consented to have their voice/image/questions recorded.

Course Information Online:

Moodle: All course information will be available from the Moodle LMS system. Students will be able to track their standing in the course by accessing the Gradebook on Moodle.

Email: Other than posts to Moodle, my primary method of communicating with you for general notices and points of interest to supplement course material will be via in-class announcements or by email to the class listserv. Please check your U of L email account on a regular basis, or have that account forwarded to your preferred provider. Please do your best to remember to do regular housekeeping of your U of L account so that you do not miss important notices due to a full mailbox. Any requests for information pertaining to matters of a confidential nature (e.g., your particular standing in the course; a sudden emergency), or graded work (i.e., presentation slides), must be sent from your U of L account and you must include your ID# and your full name as it appears on your registration.

NB: If your email to me concerns questions about course information that has been made available in class, has been posted to Moodle, is given within this syllabus, or you are disrespectful to me in your wording, I will not reply.

Course Requirements:

(1) **Exams (50% total).** There will be three (3) in-class exams given throughout the semester, each of which will account for 16.7% of your final grade. Exams will be based on both lecture content and readings. Exam format will consist of short-answer questions, short definitions, and multiple-choice/fill-in-the blank questions. Each exam is non-cumulative.

Dates: (dates for Exams 1 and 2 should be considered tentative until after the add/drop period)

Exam 1: Friday, February 10

Exam 2: Friday, March 17

Exam 3: Friday, April 7

Penalty: If you fail to write an exam on the scheduled date you will receive 0%.

(2) **Presentation (15%).** Students will be responsible for giving a short, conference-length presentation in groups of two or three depending on enrollment. Each group/pair will be given a maximum of 15 minutes for their presentation (10 minutes for presentation plus 3 minutes for a question period, with length of time strictly enforced by timer). The presentation is worth 15% of your final grade: 7.5% accorded to the group (i.e., each member will receive the same grade) and 7.5% accorded to each group member's individual contribution. A portion of the group mark is based on submitting an electronic copy of the group's finished presentation slides to Dr. Forgie (forgie@uleth.ca) **by 12:00 pm (noon) on the day of your presentation.** A portion of the individual mark is based on submitting a hardcopy of the Scheduling Worksheet. Details of this assignment will be posted to Moodle and will be discussed in the introductory classes.

Scheduling Presentations and Assigning Groups and Topics. Every student is required to submit a hardcopy of the Presentation Scheduling Worksheet **NO LATER than in class on Friday, January 20, 2017.** The purpose of the worksheet is to form groups that consist of students who share topic interests, approach, level of analysis, and compatible schedules. Instructions for the worksheet will be discussed in class and a template for the Worksheet will be posted to Moodle following add/drop when final enrollment numbers are confirmed. **No electronic submissions of the Scheduling Worksheet will be accepted.** Groups and topics will be assigned during the in-class workshop on **Monday, January 23, 2017.**

Penalties: Students who fail to actively engage with partner(s); assist with the preparation and delivery of research for the presentation topic; and/or to deliver her or his part of the in-class presentation will receive 0 for 7.5% of his or her final grade. Should this situation arise, the group mark for the remaining members will be recalculated without that student's grade. Students who fail to

submit a Scheduling Worksheet by the January 20 deadline; to attend the in-class workshop on January 23; and, who do not attend classes following add/drop will be dropped from the presentation schedule entirely.

- (3) **Journal Assignments (35% total).** Students are required to submit two (2) written assignments, each consisting of an essay explaining a single, piece of primary research (the target article) set into the context of the broader field of inquiry. Each essay will count towards 17.5% of your final grade. Your essays must be on different topics and you may NOT use the same topic as that of your presentation for either one. Details of this assignment will be posted on Moodle and will be discussed in class. Following initial grading, students will be given the option to submit a revised paper for a higher grade (see below). **All assignments are due NO LATER than 4:00 pm on the deadline.** You may hand your assignments in during classtime on that date, or you may turn them in to the course dropbox*.

Deadlines: (dates should be considered tentative until after the add/drop period)

First Submission Deadlines (Mandatory):

Assignment 1: Monday, February 13, 2017

Assignment 2: Monday, March 20, 2017

Revision Submission Deadlines (Optional):

Assignment 1: Friday, March 10, 2017

Assignment 2: Wednesday, April 19, 2017 (*submit to course dropbox only)

Penalties: If you fail to turn in an assignment by the first submission deadline, or you turn in an incomplete assignment, you will incur an automatic 25% deduction to your mark and you forfeit your right to turn in a revision for that assignment. Your reduced mark will account for 17.5% of your final grade. Assignments turned in more than 24 hours after the deadline will receive an automatic grade of 0 for 17.5% of your final grade. Any revision that is incomplete or turned in after the specified deadline for each assignment will not be graded and your first mark will stand. **NO EXCEPTIONS & NO EXTENSTIONS.**

Policy for Re-scheduling of Exams and Penalties for Late Submissions: With the exception of extreme extenuating circumstances all students are expected to write the exams on the scheduled dates, to turn in assignments on time, and to deliver their presentations on the scheduled date. Supporting documentation must be provided for any request to re-schedule your presentation; to extend the due date for assignments; or to write a make-up exam. Should you find yourself in an extreme situation, please contact me ASAP via email so that I may assist you to access university resources. Otherwise, penalties will be levied as described above. There will be no opportunity to re-weight course components or to complete extra work to offset missed exams, missed presentations, late assignments, or poor performance on any course component.

A Note on Plagiarism: Written assignments and presentation material will be graded under the assumption that students have read and understood the contents of Northey and Timney (2015); specifically here, Chapter 5 - *Ethical Issues in Research and Writing*. All assignments must be in your own words. Paraphrasing someone else's words or ideas, even if you reference those words, is plagiarism. Stringing together a set of phrases with direct quotes is not writing in your own words. All forms of plagiarism constitute a serious academic offense. Any case of suspected plagiarism will be dealt with severely, including the imposition of the maximum penalties allowable. The onus is on you to understand what constitutes plagiarism and to take all steps to avoid it. It is also an academic offence to submit substantially similar work for different assignments in the same course, or for two different courses for credit (see Part 4 of the U of L Calendar regarding Academic Offenses).

Grading Scheme:

Letter grades will be assigned to all course components and final course percentages according to the following scale. You must meet or exceed the lower boundary for a grade category in order to be accorded that letter grade.

A+ ≥ 90	B+ 77 - < 80	C+ 67 - < 70	D+ 55 - < 60
A 85 - < 90	B 73 - < 77	C 63 - < 67	D 50 - < 55
A- 80 - < 85	B- 70 - < 73	C- 60 - < 63	F < 50