

Psychology 2110A - Introduction to Child Development

**Department of Psychology
The University of Lethbridge
Fall 2008**

Location: MWF; 10:00 - 10:50 am, LI060

Lecturer:

Dr. Margaret Forgie

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Office Hours: By individual appointment at a mutually convenient time.

Graduate Teaching Assistant:

Ms. Lesley Terry

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Undergraduate Marking Assistant:

TBA

Course Description:

The purpose of this course is to help you to come to an understanding of the course of behaviour development in humans. Three general areas will be emphasized: a description of processes that apply to all children, or universals (e.g., prenatal development; human predispositions toward certain environmental stimuli); a description and investigation of the sources and types of individual differences among children (e.g., sex differences; attachment and parenting style); and finally, the problems that arise from more severe disturbances or deviations, in the path of development (e.g., genetic disorders, environmental deprivation). In order to understand the growth of behaviour in all humans, however, it is essential to address these developmental issues from a broad, interactionist perspective that emphasizes all aspects of a child's life. In doing so, we will consider the biological, cognitive, social, and emotional processes that are characteristic of human development, which necessarily includes discussion of the different contexts in which these processes occur (e.g., physical environment, daycare, school, family, peers).

Required Text:

Cole, M., Cole, S.R., & Lightfoot, C. (2005). *The Development of Children, Fifth Edition*. Worth Publishers: New York, NY.

Course Requirements:

- (1) Lectures and Readings. Each class, a lecture will be presented on a particular topic/area of developmental psychology with a companion reading from a chapter (or portion thereof) of the required textbook (see attached schedule). For the purposes of examinations, you will be expected to have knowledge of both the lecture and companion reading material. Although attendance at lectures is not mandatory, each student is responsible for any material that is

presented in the lecture (content, as well as any announcements etc.) whether or not you choose to attend.

NB: I will neither post my powerpoint slides to the web, nor distribute them in any other way to the class.

- (2) Evaluation. Your percentage mark in the course will be based on your performance on three out-of-class tests given throughout the semester (each covering approximately 4 - 5 weeks worth of lectures and readings). **All tests will be based on material from both the lectures and the textbook.** Each of these tests will consist of short answer (paragraph) questions, brief definitions, and multiple-choice questions, and will count equally towards your final grade. Exams are **non-cumulative** and material to be covered on each test will be clearly outlined prior to each exam. There is **no cumulative final exam** in this course and, therefore, none will appear on the final exam schedule. Test 3, however, will be written during the final exam period. These out-of-class tests will be closed book, and will be written in the University's Testing Facility using the webCT testing utility.

*****NB. All students are to write the exams within the scheduled dates.**

NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE

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 if special arrangements are necessary to accommodate your individual situation. Please note that you must contact Counselling Services to acquire an official letter concerning your situation. No accommodations will be given without official notification from that office.

Experimental Research Participation:

In addition to the foregoing, this course is designed to provide students with an opportunity to participate in the active research projects of faculty members. Calls for volunteers to assist in these projects will be made during the semester, in class or via e-mail. If you are asked to volunteer, and you accept, each project usually requires one hour or less of your time, but this will vary. In recognition of the value of your time, and in recognition that you are learning something about the discipline of psychology, beyond what you would in the normal classroom environment, an extra credit of 1 to 2% for each study in which you participate will be added to your total grade to a **MAXIMUM** extra credit of 2%. Note that there is no guarantee that all students will be able to achieve the maximum extra credit. These extra credits are added only after all grade cutoffs have been established such that students who choose not to participate are not disadvantaged.

Web Sites, WebCT Testing, and email:

- (1) Course Information, Testing and Evaluation: **webct.uleth.ca**

WebCT Testing. All students have a U of L computer account. Your account name is equivalent to your username and your password is the same as you use for email. You will need this to access your webCT account in order to obtain course information, and to write the online exams. If you require assistance with anything related to these issues, please see the Student Help Desk on the sixth floor of U-hall (E section).

Exams for this course will be closed book exams, written out-of-class, using the online WebCT testing utility. Exams will be written, on computer, in the University of Lethbridge's Testing Facility. A demonstration of the web testing procedure and other details related to the tests will be presented in class. Should you have problems with your webCT account, please contact the Curriculum Redevelopment Centre (CRDC) in LI 108.

(2) The University Testing Facility and Procedures:

http://fusion.uleth.ca/crdc/testcenter/testcenter_student_info.htm

The University Testing Facility is located in B770. Access is granted on a first-come, first-served basis. Once you enter the facility, you will be required to present valid picture ID (either your student card or a valid driver's license.) and to sign in on a classlist. Please also note that you must be finished your test by the closing time of the facility or you will not be allowed to complete it.

Regular Hours:

Monday to Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Friday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday 12:00 Noon. to 6:00 p.m.

Sunday 12:00 Noon to 10:00 p.m.

Holidays 12:00 Noon to 5:00 pm

(3) Email Accounts:

My primary method of communicating with you for general notices will be via email and in-class announcements. Please be sure you check your U of L email account on a regular basis, or have that account forwarded to your usual email provider. Please do your best to remember to do regular housekeeping so that you do not miss important notices that relate to this class due to a full mailbox. **PLEASE DO NOT ABUSE THE CLASS LISTSERV** by sending irrelevant communications.