

## Psychology 2110: Introduction to Child Development Spring 2012

**Class meetings:** MWF 12:00-12:50, PE250  
**Office:** C876, University Hall  
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**Professor:** Fangfang Li  
**Office hours:** By appointment  
**E-mail:** [fangfang.li@uleth.ca](mailto:fangfang.li@uleth.ca)

**Graduate teaching assistant:** Nicole Netelenbos (Email: [nicole.netelenbos@uleth.ca](mailto:nicole.netelenbos@uleth.ca))

**Course description:** This is an introductory course on child psychology. It describes how the biological, cognitive, cultural, environmental, and social factors together influence development throughout childhood. It also introduces you to the major phenomena, methods, theories, and findings of developmental psychology, especially as they apply to infancy and childhood.

**Textbook:**

Siegler, Deloache & Eisenberg (2010) *How Children Develop*. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition Worth Publishers.

**Coursework and grading:** There will be two exams for this class, one midterm (40% each) and one final (60%). The final exam is cumulative, covering all materials presented throughout the semester. Students should come prepared for each class by reading the assigned textbook chapters or journal articles.

**Grading scale:**

A+	90 – 100	B+	77 – 79	C+	67 – 69	D+	55 - 59	F	0 - 49
A	85 – 89	B	73 – 76	C	63 - 66	D	50 - 54		
A-	80 – 84	B-	70 – 72	C-	60 - 62				

**Make-up policy:** No make-up midterm or final exam will be given without a valid medical note or other official documentation.

**Students with Special Needs:** If you have any special needs that require accommodation, it is your responsibility to contact Counseling Services to acquire an official letter concerning your situation. Accommodations will only be given upon receiving the official notification from that office.

**Experimental Research Participation:** This course is designed to provide students with an opportunity to participate in active research programs of faculty members. This participation allows you to get direct experience in how many of the experiments and studies you will read and hear about are actually done, and provides an opportunity for you to see what goes on in the labs, and meet senior undergraduate and graduate students conducting their own laboratory research projects. Calls for volunteers to assist in these projects will be made during the semester, 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 depend on the individual research project. In recognition 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% for each study in which you participate will be added to your total grade to a maximum of 3%. Note that there is no guarantee that all students will be able to achieve the maximum extra credit. As these are extra credits, students who choose not to participate are not disadvantaged. The available studies will be listed on the system at <http://psychleth.sona-systems.com>. Your username will be the same one you use to access Moodle. The password will be psy2110a. The system should be available starting around Tuesday, January 17, 2012 and the deadline for participating in studies is April 16, 2012.

**Classroom etiquette:** As college level students, you are expected to exhibit good manners in classroom to show your respect to both the instructor and to other students. This entails at least the following three basic aspects: 1) Turning off your cellphones and other electronic devices. Computers can only be used for note-taking purpose. 2) Arriving and leaving on time: unexcused late arrivals could be both disruptive to the instructor and to other students. Be punctual at the beginning of the class and don't pack your stuff until the instructor has completely finished lecturing. 3) No talking in class unless you are allowed to. Casual conversations should be carried out outside the classroom. Loud talking is very disruptive, especially for such a large class as ours.

**Academic Integrity:** I am obliged to report to the University of any suspected cases of academic misconduct. The most common form of misconduct is plagiarism, cheating, and shared work. Please refer to the University calendar for the complete set of policies regarding academic integrity.

### **List of additional readings:**

Olsson, A., Nearing, K. I., & Phelps, E. A. (2007) Learning fears by observing others: the neural systems of social fear transmission. *Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience*, doi: 10.1093/scan/nsm005.  
(<http://scan.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2007/03/15/scan.nsm005.full.pdf+html>)

Keen, R. (2003) Representation of objects and events: why do infants look so smart and toddlers look so dumb? *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 12 (3): 79- 83  
(Downloadable from the University library website)

Baydar, N. (1995) Consequences for children of their birth planning status. *Family Planning Perspectives*, 27 (6): 228-245.  
(<http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/journals/2722895.pdf>)

Birch, S. A. J. & Bloom, P. (2004) The Curse of Knowledge in Reasoning about False Belief. *Psychological Science*, 18 (5): 382-386.  
[http://bobweigel.net/projects/images/Birch%26bloom\\_curse.pdf](http://bobweigel.net/projects/images/Birch%26bloom_curse.pdf)

### Tentative course schedule

Month	Date	Da y	Reading	Notes
Jan	9	M	Chapter 1	
	11	W		
	13	F		
	16	M	Chapter 2	
	18	W		
	20	F	Chapter 3	
	23	M		
	25	W	Chapter 4	
	27	F		
	30	M		
Feb	1	W	Chapter 5	
	3	F		
	6	M		
	8	W	Chapter 6	
	10	F		
	13	M		
	15	W		
	17	F	Review	
	<i>20</i>	M		<i>No class</i>
	<i>22</i>	W		<i>No class</i>
	<i>24</i>	F		<i>No class</i>
	27	M	<b>Midterm</b>	
	29	W	Chapter 7	

Month	Date	Da y	Reading	Notes
Mar	2	F		
	5	M	Chapter 8	
	7	W		
	9	F		
	12	M	Chapter 9	
	14	W		
	16	F		
	19	M	Chapter 10	
	21	W		
	23	F		
	26	M	Chapter 11	
	28	W		
	30	F	Chapter 12	
Apr	2	M		
	4	W		
	<i>6</i>	<i>F</i>		<i>No class</i>
	<i>9</i>	<i>M</i>		<i>No class</i>
	11	W	Chapter 13	
	13	F	Chapter 14	
	16	M	Chapter 15	
	18	W		
	<i>27</i>	<i>F</i>		<i><b>Final Exam</b></i> 9:00-12:00