

Psychology 2110A - Introduction to Child Development

Department of Psychology
The University of Lethbridge
Spring 2010

Location:

M W F; 12:00 - 12:50 pm; PE250

Lecturer:

Dr. Margaret Forgie
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Office: D850
Email: forgie@uleth.ca (preferred contact)
Office Hours: By individual appointment at a mutually convenient time.

Graduate Teaching Assistant:

Mr. Doug VanderLaan, M.Sc., Ph.D. Candidate
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Required Text:

Shaffer, D.R., Kipp, K., Wood, E., and Willoughby, T. (2009/2010). *Developmental Psychology: Childhood and Adolescence, Third Canadian Edition*. Nelson Education Ltd.: Toronto, ON.

Course Description:

The purpose of this course is to help you to come to an understanding of the normative pattern of behavioural 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 specific 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 severe disturbances or deviations in the normative path (e.g., genetic disorders, environmental deprivation, exposure to toxins). 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 taking this perspective, 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).

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. For the purposes of tests, 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 Blackboard, 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 of lectures and readings). **All tests will be based on material from both the lecture and the textbook.** Each of these tests will consist of 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 the start of the 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 Blackboard testing utility.

**NB. All students are to write the exams within the scheduled dates.
NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE**

Experimental Research Participation:

In addition to the foregoing, this course provides 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, via postings to the Announcements section of our Blackboard site (see below). 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 COURSE 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.

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 the Disabilities Resource Centre to acquire an official letter concerning your situation. No accommodations will be given without official notification from that office.

Grading:

Letter grades will be assigned to final percentages according to the following scale:

A+ (90+)	B+ (77-79)	C+ (67-69)	D+ (56-59)
A (85-89)	B (73-76)	C (63-66)	D (50-55)
A- (80-84)	B- (70-72)	C- (60-62)	F (< 50)

Web Sites, Internet Testing, and E-mail:

(1) **Course Information.** 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 Blackboard (<https://courseware.uleth.ca/webct>) in order to obtain course information, handouts, and to write the online exams. If you require assistance with anything related to using computers at the U of L, please contact the Student Help Desk.

(2) Internet Examinations. Exams for this course will be closed book exams, written out-of-class, using the Blackboard testing utility. All students will write their exam at the University of Lethbridge's Testing Facility. Please read the sections of this syllabus that describe the exam format. Should you require assistance with your Blackboard account please contact the Curriculum Redevelopment Centre (CRDC) in L1108.

(3) Taking Your Test. 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 fill out a brief form that registers your exam. Opening and closing days for each of the three tests in this course are given on the course schedule.

The testing centre hours are listed at:

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

All students must submit their exam by the closing time of the testing centre. Please allow yourself adequate time to complete your exam.

(4) E-mail 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.