

Psychology 2110A - Child Development - Fall 2006

Location: MWF; 10:00 - 10:50 pm, C674

Instructor Info:

Instructor: Dr. Margaret Forgie
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Teaching Assistant: Ms. Linda Van Waes

Office Hours:

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, we will address 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/Evaluation:

- (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 textbook (see attached schedule). 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. I will not make my powerpoint slides available.
- (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 lecture and the textbook.** Each of these tests will count toward one-third of your final grade. These out-of-class tests will be closed book, and will be written in the University's Testing Facility (B772), using the webCT program. Details related to tests will be discussed in class.

*******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.

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, 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 L1108.

I. (2) The University Testing Facility and Procedures:

http://www.uleth.ca/crdc/webct/Testing_center_howto.cfm

The University Testing Facility is located in B772. 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.

(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.