

Psychology 2110A - Introduction to Child Development
Department of Psychology
The University of Lethbridge
Fall 2011

Location:

MWF; 10:00-10:50; PE250

Instructor:

Dr. Margaret Forgie

Phone: 403-329-2437 (department: 403-329-2235)

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Email: forgie@uleth.ca (preferred contact)

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

Graduate Teaching Assistant:

Ms. Natalie Freeman (MSc. Candidate in the Department of Psychology)

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Office Hours: TBA

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 Moodle, 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 to 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 each test 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 Moodle testing utility (see below). **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 email. If you are asked to volunteer, and you accept, each project usually requires one hour or less of your time, but this will vary. Studies will run between September 20 and December 9. 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 typical classroom environment, an extra credit of 1 to 2% for each study (depending on length of time required) in which you participate will be added to your total grade to a COURSE MAXIMUM extra credit of 5%. 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. All questions regarding research participation should be addressed to either the individual research staff conducting the study or to the Administrative Assistant to the Department of Psychology, Ms. Leanne Wehlage-Ellis (wehlage@uleth.ca).

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 registering 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 Moodle 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 Moodle 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 Moodle account please contact the Curriculum Redevelopment Centre (CRDC) in LI 108.

(3) Taking Your Test. Please see the following URL for Testing Centre Location and Procedures related to taking your test. http://fusion.uleth.ca/crdc/testcenter/testcenter_student_info.htm
Opening and closing days for each of the three tests in this course are given on the course schedule.

(4) E-mail Accounts. My primary method of communicating with you for general notices and points of interest to supplement lecture material, 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 course due to a full mailbox.

***Preliminary Course Schedule and Projected Reading List**

Sept. 7	Introductory Class – Course Information, Explanation of Exams and Requirements, and a Moodle Demonstration
Sept. 9, 12	Theory and Research in the Developmental Sciences; Ch. 1 and 2
Sept. 14, 16, 19	Foundations of Development I; Ch. 3
Sept. 21, 23, 26, 28	Foundations of Development II; Ch. 4
Sept. 30, Oct. 3, 5	Foundations of Development III; Ch. 5

Test 1: opens Friday Oct. 7 @ 10 a.m. and closes Wednesday, October 12 @ 10 p.m.

Oct. 7, 10, 12, 14	Language, Learning, and Cognitive Development I; Ch. 6
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October 10 NO CLASS - Statutory Holiday - Thanksgiving

Oct. 17, 19, 21	Language, Learning, and Cognitive Development II; Ch. 7
Oct. 24, 26, 28	Language, Learning, and Cognitive Development III; Ch. 8
Oct. 31, Nov. 2, 4	Language, Learning, and Cognitive Development IV; Ch. 9
Nov. 7, 9, 11, 14	Language, Learning, and Cognitive Development V; Ch. 10

November 11 NO CLASS - Statutory Holiday – Remembrance Day

Test 2: opens Friday Nov. 11 @ 10 a.m. and closes Thursday, November 17 @ 10 p.m.

Nov. 16, 18, 21	Social and Personality Development I; Ch. 11
Nov. 23, 25, 28	Social and Personality Development II; Ch. 12
Nov. 30, Dec. 2, 5	Social and Personality Development III; Chs. 13 & 14
Dec. 7, 9	The Ecology of Development I: Family and Peer Relationships; Chs. 15 & 16

Test 3: opens Monday Dec. 12 @ 10 a.m. and closes Friday, December 16 @ 5 p.m.

*this is a general schedule and reading list to assist you with understanding the topics and reading load for this class. We will not cover all parts of certain chapters, and I will announce specific readings in class, via email, and will post to Moodle as we cover each topic. Material to be covered on each exam will be clearly outlined prior to each test. Regardless of the material that we have covered by that point, exam dates will not change.