

Psychology 3130A – Developmental Psychopathology
Department of Psychology
The University of Lethbridge
Spring 2011

Location:

M W F, 10:00-10:50, PE261

Instructor:

Dr. Margaret Forgie

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

Undergraduate Student Assistant:

Mr. Peter Kuntz (B.A. Candidate - Psychology)

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Course Description:

This course is designed to expand on the material covered by Psychology 2110 (Introduction to Child Development) by providing an in-depth analysis of current theories and research in the area of atypical child development. In keeping with the theme of normal development gone awry, text readings in “Developmental Psychopathology”, our in-class discussions (lectures and student presentations), and assignments will focus on disordered development in a chronological fashion, from conception to adolescence, as time permits. Topics will be addressed from an interactionist perspective that considers multiple factors in the pathology of mental illness and, thus, all students will be expected to understand the biological, cognitive, social, emotional and environmental influences on the disorders that are discussed.

Course Prerequisite(s):

The prerequisites for this course are Psychology 2110 and one additional 2000-level course (3.0 credit hours) in Psychology or Neuroscience. Regardless of specific background, all students are expected to have a solid foundation in the study of normative human development, and the scientific approach to understanding human behaviour.

Required Texts:

Wenar, C., & Kerig, P. (2007). *Developmental Psychopathology*, Fifth Edition. McGraw-Hill: New York, NY.

Northey, M., and Timney, B. (2007). *Making Sense in Psychology and the Life Sciences. A student's guide to research and writing*, Fourth Edition. Oxford University Press: Don Mills, ON.

Course Requirements:

Tests. There will be three short tests, approximately every 4 to 5 weeks during the semester, and these will account for a total of 45% of your final grade (15% each). Tests will consist of short-answer, definition, and multiple-choice questions. Test 3 will take place on the last day of classes. There is no cumulative final exam in this course (see attached Course Schedule).

Presentation. Students will be responsible for giving a short, conference length presentation (a total of 10 minutes for the group presentation; 3 minutes for question period, with length of time strictly enforced by the instructor). Students will present in groups of three. This presentation will be worth 20% of your final grade, with 10% accorded to the group and 10% accorded to each individual's contribution. All students will be required to submit a one-paragraph statement of interest and then groups will be assigned based on matched interests (see attached Course Schedule).

Abstract Assignment. As a companion to your presentation, each student will submit a written assignment that is adapted from several standard annotated formats. The assignment will consist of writing a one-page, critical abstract of each of five primary research articles. This assignment is worth 15% of your final grade and will be marked on a pass/fail basis. In other words, if you pass the assignment on first submission you will receive 15%, and if you do not pass the assignment on first submission you will receive a mark of 0%, and you will be required to submit a revision. A handout for this assignment will be distributed and discussed during the introductory classes (see attached Course Schedule). **This assignment is due on the day that you give your presentation, and must be submitted by 4:00 pm in the dropbox located adjacent to D866.**

Journal Assignment. This written assignment consists of an essay explaining a single, original research article concerning any topic in the area of development in childhood and adolescence as it pertains to mental illness. Approaches from all levels of psychological analysis are encouraged (e.g., depending on your interests, you might choose to focus on the molecular processes of the physiology and neurology of mental illness, or you might choose a clinical study of drugs used for treatment). The only caveat is that your target article **MUST** be a primary research paper that has published in a peer-reviewed (refereed) journal and it must have been published within the last 5 years (i.e., 2005 or later). Your submission will be worth 20% of your final grade. Following initial grading, all students will be given an opportunity to revise their paper for a higher grade. A handout for this assignment will be distributed and discussed during the introductory class (see attached Course Schedule). **This assignment is due on March 18 by 4:00 pm in the dropbox located adjacent to D866.**

NB.

Late submissions of the Journal Assignment or the Abstract Assignment will result in a 25% penalty per day. Failure to deliver your part of the in-class presentation will result in a grade of zero (0) for both portions of the mark. Your group will be graded without your result. Students that contribute little to the group presentation will have their mark adjusted accordingly. All assignments will be graded with the assumption that students have read and understood the contents of the second required text by Northey and Timney (2007). In particular, all written assignments must be in your own words. Paraphrasing someone else's words, even if you reference those words, is plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and any case of suspected plagiarism will be dealt with severely, including the imposition of the maximum penalties allowable for such an offense. For information on what constitutes plagiarism - see Northey and Timney (2007), Chapter 4. This information is also available from the library.

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.

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 and Email:

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 view the online grade book. Although all tests will be written during class time, I will use this utility so that you can keep track of all your graded work. If you require assistance with anything related to using computers at the U of L, please contact the Student Help Desk. Should you have a problem accessing Blackboard, please contact the CRDC (11th floor - Library).

E-mail Accounts. My primary method of communicating with you for general notices and points of interest to supplement course information, 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 communications to the list that are not relevant to class material.

Projected Course Schedule and Readings

Week 1: Jan. 10, 12, 14

Lecture Topics:

Introductory Classes - Explanation of Assignments, Exams and Presentation Requirements
(All students are expected to attend these classes).

Chapter 1: The Developmental Psychopathology Approach

Weeks 2 to 5: Jan. 17, 19, 21*, 24**, 26, 28, 31, Feb. 2, 4, 7, 9, 11

Important Dates:

*Paragraph of Interests due for presentation topics – in class.

**Groups assigned and dates scheduled for presentations - All students are expected to attend this class.

***Wednesday, Feb. 9 – In-class Exam I

Lecture Topics and Readings:

Chapter 2: Normative Development

Chapter 3: The Bridge to the Psychopathologies

Chapter 4: Infancy: The Developmental Consequences of Mental Retardation

Student Presentations Begin:

Jan. 31, Feb. 2, 4 - Student Presentations I

Weeks 6 to 9: Feb. 14, 16, 18, 21, 23, 25**, Feb. 28, Mar. 2, 4, 7, 9, 11

Important Dates:

***No Classes – Reading Week**

Lecture Topics and Readings:

Chapter 13: The Developmental Consequences of Brain Injury and Chronic Illness

Chapter 5: Infancy: Disorders in the Autistic Spectrum

Chapter 6: Infancy through Preschool: Attachment Disorders, Oppositional Defiant Disorder, and Enuresis

Chapter 7: The Preschool Period: Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and Learning Disabilities

Student Presentations:

Feb. 14, 16, 18 - Student Presentations 2

Feb. 28, Mar. 2, 4 - Student Presentations 3

Mar. 7, 9, 11 - Student Presentations 4

Weeks 10 through 14: Mar. 14*, 16, 18**, 21***, 23, 25, 28, 30, Apr. 1, 4, 6, 8, 11, 13, 15****

Important Dates:

*Monday, March 14 – In-class Exam 2

**Friday, March 18 - Journal Assignments are due in the drop-box by 4:00 PM.

***Monday, March 21 - Withdrawal Deadline for the Spring 2011 Semester.

****Friday, April 15 – In-class Test 3

Lecture Topics and Readings:

- Chapter 8: Middle Childhood: The Anxiety Disorders
- Chapter 9: Middle Childhood to Adolescence: Mood Disorders and Suicide
- Chapter 10: Middle Childhood to Adolescence: Conduct Disorder and the Development
- Chapter 11: Severe Deviation in Late Childhood and Adolescence: Schizophrenia
- Chapter 12: Psychopathologies of the Adolescent Transmission: Eating Disorders and Substance Abuse
- Chapter 15: Late Adolescence to Early Adulthood: Emergent Personality Disorders

Student Presentations:

- Mar. 14, 16, **18** – Student Presentations 5
- Mar. 28, **30**, April 1 - Student Presentations 6
- April **4**, 6, 8 - Student Presentations 7

N.B. Thursday, April 21 – All Abstract and Journal Assignment Revisions are Due by 4:00 pm in the drop box located outside the Psychology Department Office (D866).