

PSYC 251 Online Course Syllabus

Term Dates

Term: January 9 - April 7, 2017

Examination: April 13-27, 2017

Course Author

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Course Description

This course is designed to be an introduction to the scientific study of human development, with an emphasis on social, cognitive, and neurobiological processes underlying perceptual, cognitive, and emotional development from infancy to adolescence.

Learning Outcomes

After completing PSYC 251, students should be able to:

1. Describe the general course of typical development from conception to late adolescence in the cognitive, linguistic, emotional and social domains to recognize their effect on one another.
2. Compare and contrast the major developmental theories and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each theory.
3. Discuss the different methods used in developmental psychology research and evaluate how these research methods are dependent upon the theoretical approach of researcher, developmental age of the participants and research question being asked.
4. Recommend ways to promote children's well-being and successful development, based on developmental research and theory.
5. Critically discuss a variety of materials related to child development and effectively communicate ideas to different audiences.
6. Collaborate with peers through problem-based learning activities to explore concepts and research related to child development.

Assessment

Assessment	Weight	Alignment with Learning Outcomes
Online Weekly Quizzes (best 8 out of 9)	10%	1,2,3,4

Discussion Activities (best 4 out of 5)	20%	1,2,3,4,5,6
Written Assignment (10%) and Peer Review (5%)	15%	1,2,3,4,5
2 Term Test (Weeks 5, 9)	20%	1,2,3,4
Final Exam*	35%	1,2,3,4,5

*You must write and pass the final exam in order to pass the course.

Online Weekly Quizzes (best 8 of 9)

There are 9 quizzes. Of the 9 quizzes, your best 8 will count towards your final grade. The quizzes will consist of 10 multiple-choice questions based on the weekly material from weekly videos and textbook readings. Typically quizzes will open on a Thursday morning and close on a Friday evening. Please see the timeline for specific due dates. You may complete the quiz during the designated time period. However, you must complete your quiz by the time the quiz availability period ends. (e.g., the weekly quizzes close at 11:55pm so you must allow yourself enough time to complete the quizzes before 11:55pm.)

Discussion Activities

There are 5 designate discussions, your best 4 out of 5 will count towards you final grade. You will work in assigned small groups for the duration of the course in order to apply and extend their understanding of key course concepts.

Written Assignment and Peer Review:

You will write one essay for this course, which is discussed in more detail on the assessment page. You will receive feedback from their peers on an early draft of their assignment. Your grade will take into how well you incorporate the feedback you receive from your peers as well as the actual content of the essay.

Term Tests:

The midterms will each be 75 minutes in length and will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. They are **open-book exams**, so you can use your textbook and notes while taking these tests. However, given the 75-minute time limit, studying is still very important; you will not have much time to look up answers to questions while writing these tests. Note that working together with another student on the exam constitutes a violation of academic integrity.

The term tests are designed to:

1. assess your knowledge and progress through the course,
2. give you feedback on your level of understanding and mastery of the material, and

3. provide experience with the testing style used in this course so as to prepare you for the final examination.

Final Proctored Exam:

The Final Exam is three hours in length and is a closed-book test. The final exam will include multiple-choice and short-answer questions testing material from the entire term. The specific date for the final exam will be announced later in the term. (Off-campus students, please check your Queen's email for your exam location details).

Please Note: You must write and pass the final exam in order to pass the course. **(i.e., obtain a grade of 50% or greater)**

Required Materials

The following textbook is available at the Campus Bookstore (<http://www.campusbookstore.com>):

- Robert Siegler, Nancy Eisenberg, Judy DeLoache, Jenny Saffran & Susan Graham "How Children Develop: Fourth Canadian Edition" *(or looseleaf version or e-text)*

Communication

The teaching team contact information is located on the home page of the course (see "Teaching Team"). For general questions about the course, please post to the discussion forum topic, Questions (located on the upper right corner of the home page of the course). Feel free to help answer your peers' questions on this forum. We will reply to email inquiries and discussion forum questions usually within 24 hours. Please use email for inquiries that are more personal in nature or questions such as academic accommodations, marking issues, etc. If you need to have a more detailed conversation, please schedule a virtual office meeting with me.

Netiquette

Please consider the following guidelines when communicating with your professor, TA and peers:

- **Be clear** - Make sure the subject line of your email or discussion forum post reflects your content.
- **Use appropriate language** - If you have a question on whether or not you are too emotional, don't send the message, save it, and review it "later". All they have are your words, and your words can express the opposite of what you feel. Don't use ALL CAPITAL LETTERS--it's equal to shouting or screaming.
- **Make a good impression** - Your words and content represent you; review/edit your words before sending.
- **Remember the human** - When you communicate online, you do not see a person's face or expressions and makes for easy misinterpretation. A rule of thumb to remember is "Would I say this if I was talking face to face to this person?"