

Psychology 478/578  
Social Development  
Fall 1997

**Text:** *Social and Personality Development* (3rd edition) by David R. Schaffer

This course will cover influences on children's social development. It will be divided into three sections, with exams covering each section. There will be no final exam for this course. In addition, there will be a project with different sections due throughout the term. We will have class presentations during the last two days of class.

- ❶ *The first three weeks will examine attempts to change children's environment, how changes in society have affected children, and issues of family influences on the child.*

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
September 29	Introduction Overview of course Prevention projects: review of material	Chapters 1 - 4 (Review by first exam)
October 1 and 3	Changes in society that effect children	
October 6 and 8	Prevention projects Attacking Social Problems: Methods and Findings	
October 10	<b>DUE: Paragraph describing research project</b>	
October 10 and 13	Behavior Genetics	Handout
October 15, 17 and 20	Development within family	Chapter 8 and 13
October 22	<b>First Exam</b>	
❷ <i>The second three weeks will examine issues of social development within the child: sex role development, perceptions of worth of self, and emotional control.</i>		
October 24 and 27	Sex role development	Chapter 9
October 29 and 31	Attachment and self	Chapters 5 and 7
October 31	<b>DUE: research proposal</b>	
November 3, 5 and 7	Development of internal control	Chapters 10 - 12
November 10	<b>Second Exam</b>	
❸ <i>The last weeks will examine external influences on the child: school, peers, media.</i>		
November 12, 14 and 17	Schools and other extra familial influences	Chapters 14 and 16
November 19, 21 and 24	Peer Influences	Chapter 15
November 26	Media Influences	
December 1	<b>Third Exam</b>	
December 3 and 5	<b>Presentation Final Projects</b>	

## Requirements for Course

There will be three in-class exams, each covering approximately one-third of the material. These will be essay exams. Each will be worth 20% (40 points) of your grade. Therefore, exams will be worth 60% of your grade.

There will be a research project, which is due in three parts: paragraph describing project, a research proposal, and a final presentation of your actual project. The total project will be worth 40% of your grade. The attached handout describes the project.

Office hours: BEVERLY FAGOT  
Monday, 9:30 - 11:30 A.M.  
Tuesday, 3:00 - 5:00 P.M.  
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346-4937  
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### **Out of Class Project**

**This assignment will be completed in three parts, please read this handout carefully. You will by the end of the term be required to have completed a small research project.**

**1. A paragraph description of your topic 10 points, Due October 10. This is simply a statement of what you plan to do. By getting this in on time, you will then be ready to begin your research proposal and will be able to complete your research study by the end of the term. I will not these accept these late as they need to be approved quickly so that you can begin on your research proposal.**

**2. A 10 page research proposal including a short literature review, a presentation of methods, and a description of planned analyses. 40 points, Due October 31.**

You may choose to write this paper on any of the topics covered in the course. However, each topic is obviously too large for a paper. You might decide you are interested in self regulation and do the assigned reading for this area. Your next task is to narrow down the range of your paper. You may decide you are interested in how parental style influences the child's ability to self regulate so you would follow up with articles taken from the reference you have read for class. After reading for awhile you may find that you need to narrow the topic even more. You should gradually limit the scope of your questions until you have a topic you can first present in a 10 page proposal and then comfortably design a small research project. **Papers on topics outside those covered in the course syllabus will not be graded.**

**I am assuming you have had psychology 303: Research Methods or an equivalent course. This assignment is a combination of a term paper where you review the literature, a research proposal, and a research project. You are responsible for knowing what a research proposal should be. I will be glad to work with you but I will not give you a topic or write the paper for you.**

Designing a study calling for unethical or impossible manipulations

also will not be acceptable. Remember your study or intervention should be directly related to the problems raised in your literature review. You should follow APA style for presentation of your study. If you do not know this style, the library has an APA Style Manual. You Must describe your study, your design, your instruments and the procedure. In addition, you should describe the statistical procedures you would use to test your hypotheses. Finally, you should discuss what you expect to find.

The format of the paper should be as follows:

Introduction- Description of your topic	5 points
Presentation of studies relevant to your topic. Include a critical review of the literature not just a summary of previous findings..	10 points
Summary and conclusion following from your literature review.	5 points.
Hypotheses for your research study.	5 points
Description of Methods you plan to use.	10 points.
Description of planned analyses	5 points.

**Papers are due on October 31. I will accept them early. For every day you are late you will lose 5 points. Holidays and weekends count as one class day. Please plan ahead. Do not ask for extensions.**

**3. Research Project: Next you will run a small research project yourself. Because of time limitations, I would suggest you use either an observation format or questionnaires. We will talk more about this in class.**

**Preparation of Posters.**

1. Poster boards are available from bookstore.
2. Your poster should include the following:
  1. Introduction - Include statement of purpose and a short review of literature.
  2. Methods - A description of the participants in the study, a description of the methods, and a description of the procedure.
  3. Results - A description of what statistics you did and the findings. This is the place to use graphic information if you have any.
  4. Discussion - Discuss your findings. Put in any suggestions you have about what you would do differently if you planned to run this study again.
  5. References
3. You can use pictures, drawings, graphs, etc. to make the poster more interesting.
4. Prepare written handouts from your poster presentations in case anyone in class would like one. This can simply be the written material from your poster.

#### **Preparation of Graduate Talks**

You should cover the same information as outlined in the poster. You should prepare overheads to enhance your talk. You should have copies of your overheads prepared to hand in to me.

**Presentation of your research: For undergraduates this will be done in poster format; for graduate students in an oral presentation to the class. This will all take place in the last week of the term and class attendance will be required. This is the Week of December 1 - 5. 30 Points**