

PSYCHOLOGY 376
CHILD DEVELOPMENT - FALL 2006

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Lecture Place and Time: 182 Lillis; Tues & Thurs 4:00 – 5:20

This course provides an introductory overview of the theories, methods and phenomena of child development. We will cover many aspects of physical, cognitive/intellectual, and social/emotional development, focusing primarily on the early childhood period. The approach to these topics is scientific, with an emphasis on recent research findings in Developmental Psychology.

Course website: <http://blackboard.uoregon.edu>

You must have an email address and be registered for this course in order to log on to Blackboard. If you do not have an email address, go to the Information Technology Center (ITC) on the second floor in the Knight Library. ITC will also help you if you are having difficulty with Blackboard.

Textbook (2 copies are on reserve in the Knight Library):

Siegler, R., DeLoache, J., & Eisenberg, N. (2006) *How children develop* 2nd Ed. New York: NY: Worth Publishers.

Textbook website: <http://bcs.worthpublishers.com/siegler/>

Lectures and Readings: Although the instructor has attempted to coordinate the lectures with the readings, they frequently will be independent of each other. Some material will be covered in both reading and lecture, but much of the material in the reading will not be discussed in class and new information not covered in the reading will be presented during class time. The exams will cover material from both lectures and readings. It is anticipated that you will need to attend the lectures and spend a substantial amount of time outside of class (reading and studying) to do well in this course.

Exams: There will be two midterms and a final exam. Each exam will be worth 120 points towards your course grade. The format for the exams will be multiple choice and short answer. The final exam will test material from the final third of the course (i.e., it will not be cumulative). At the time of the final, students who want to improve a midterm grade will have

the opportunity to take a makeup for either midterm (in addition to the final). If a student takes a midterm on the scheduled date and also completes the makeup exam, the higher of the two scores will be used for the course grade. The final exam will be given at the time listed in the university's final exam schedule (December 5, 1-3). Students will **not** be able to schedule the final for any other time. The only make ups for midterms will be given at the time of the final exam.

Paper and Paper Proposal: Students will write a short paper (6-8 pages) in which they summarize the research findings addressing an important question about child development. The paper will be worth 100 points towards your course grade. Possible topic questions might be: When do babies start to recognize their parents? Should unhappily married parents stay together for the sake of the children? How accurate are children's memories? These questions are only suggestions. Pick a topic that is of real interest to you – something you have always wanted to know about young children. Students are required to submit a proposal for the topic of their paper by October 9. The proposal is brief – probably about half a page and definitely no longer than one page. In your proposal you will state the question or issue that you have selected for your paper and briefly explain why you think this question/topic is interesting and important. The proposal is worth 10 points.

Online Discussion Groups: All students have been assigned to an online discussion group. This group provides a forum for you to discuss the course material with a small number of other students. The expectation is that you will use the group regularly. Your discussion grade (30 points) will be based on your posts, as described on Blackboard. Note that the first graded post is time sensitive – the deadline is October 3.

Important Dates:

October 3:	Deadline for first post for Discussion group.
October 9:	Deadline for Paper proposal. Late proposals will not be accepted.
October 17:	Midterm 1
November 7:	Midterm 2
November 13:	Deadline for Discussion Group Assignment
November 20:	Deadline for paper. Late papers will be marked down substantially.
December 5 1:00-3:00:	Final Exam

Final grades: Final grades will be based on the total number of points earned for the paper proposal (10 points), paper (100 points), online discussion grade (30 points), Midterm 1 (120 points), Midterm 2 (120 points) and the Final exam (120 points). The total number of possible points is 500. Letter grades will be assigned in the following way: The average of the two highest scores in the class will serve as a reference point. If your total number of points is:

- 90% to 100% of the reference point, your grade will be A
- 80% to 89% of the reference point, your grade will be B
- 70% to 79% of the reference point, your grade will be C
- 60% to 69% of the reference point, your grade will be D
- Less than 60% of the reference point, your grade will be F

Within each letter grade, a plus will be assigned to scores within the top 2% and a minus to scores within the bottom 2%. For example, 98% to 100% of the reference point will be A+, 90% to 92% of the reference point will be A- and the scores in between will be As.

Academic Honesty: All work submitted in this course must be your own and produced exclusively for this course. No form of cheating or plagiarism will be tolerated. Plagiarism is the inclusion of someone else's product, words, ideas, or data as one's own work. When a student submits work for credit that includes the product, words, ideas, or data of others, the source must be acknowledged by the use of complete, accurate and specific references. By placing one's name on work submitted for credit, the student certifies the originality of all work not otherwise identified by appropriate acknowledgements. On written assignments, if verbatim statements are included, the statements must be enclosed by quotation marks. Unauthorized collaboration with others on papers or projects can inadvertently lead to a charge of plagiarism. In addition, it is plagiarism to submit work in which portions were substantially produced by someone acting as a tutor or editor. If in doubt, consult the instructor or seek assistance from the staff of Academic Learning Services (68 PLC, 346-3226). If cheating is discovered on the exams or plagiarism on assignments, then the University will be notified and appropriate action will be taken.

Accommodations: If one of the following applies to you, please see the instructor as soon as possible to make adjustments. You are strongly encouraged to contact Disability Services (346-1155) if you have a non-documented condition that creates difficulty for you as a student.

Documented learning or medical disability

Non-documented need for adjustments to help you learn

On a sports team that travels this quarter

English is not your first language

With advanced planning, adjustments are relatively straightforward. Adjustments at the last minute can be problematic and sometimes are not possible.

OUTLINE OF LECTURE TOPICS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>
Sept 26	Overview of course	
Sept 28	Scientific study of children	Chapter 1
Oct 3	Prenatal development	Chapter 2
Oct 5, 10 & 12	Infant perception and cognition	Chs 3, 4 & 5
Oct 17	Midterm 1	
Oct 19	Words & Symbols	Chapter 6
Oct 24 & 26	Drawing & Pretend Play	Chapter 7

Oct 31	Theory of mind	Chapter 9
Nov 2	Autism	Chapter 10
Nov 7	Midterm 2	
Nov 9 & 14	Attachment	Chs 11 &12
Nov 16 & 21	Parenting	Chs 13 &14
Nov 23	Thanksgiving	
Nov 28	Gender	Chapter 15
Nov 30	Summary	
December 5 1:00 –3:00	Final Exam	