



PSY 375: Development

Winter 2006

250 Clinical Services Building, Tuesday & Thursday 4:00-5:20

Course Instructor: Meredith Meyer
Phone: 346-4947
E-mail: mmeyer2@uoregon.edu
Office: 398 Straub Hall
Office Hours: Wednesday 1:00 & Thursday 10:00, or by appointment

Course Description: This course is devoted to the study of psychological development, with a particular focus on how human social and cognitive skills arise throughout infancy and childhood. The class will explore different theoretical accounts of development, examining a range of psychological phenomena including memory, language, social reasoning, parent-infant attachment, personality, temperament, and clinical (psychopathological) developmental disorders.

Developmental psychology is an exciting field, with an ever-increasing number of investigators benefitting from recent innovations in experimental techniques and theoretical advances aimed at elucidating the steps of human development, the reasons underlying individual differences, and the ways in which biology and environment interact across childhood. My hope is that you also will join in the current excitement for this fascinating discipline and find opportunities for challenge and learning.

Readings:

Required Text

Siegler, R., DeLoache, J., & Eisenberg, N. (2003). *How children develop*. New York: Worth.

Copies are available at the University of Oregon bookstore; additionally, two copies are on reserve at Knight Library, limited to checkout periods of two hours.

Required Additional Readings

Supplementary readings will be made available as pdf documents on blackboard under Course Documents and will be posted at least three to four days in advance of their corresponding lecture. Please ensure that you have the means to open and view documents in pdf format; if you find yourself having trouble viewing the readings, please let me know as soon as possible. Public computers available in computer labs and all University of Oregon libraries can be used to open and print these documents if you are having difficulty.

Course Prerequisites:

None

Important University Deadlines:

Deadline Last day to:

January 8: Process a complete drop (100% refund, no W recorded)

January 15: Drop this course (100% refund, no W recorded)

January 15: Process a complete drop (90% refund, no W recorded)

January 16: Drop this course (75% refund, no W recorded)

January 16: Process a complete drop (75% refund, no W recorded)

January 18: Add this course
January 22: Withdraw from this course (75% refund, W recorded)
January 29: Withdraw from this course (50% refund, W recorded)
February 5: Withdraw from this course (25% refund, W recorded)
February 26: Withdraw from this course (0% refund, W recorded)
February 26: Change grading option for this course

Blackboard: The course blackboard site will be a critical source of information throughout the term. As noted above, assigned readings will be available on blackboard, and any changes to the lecture or reading schedule will be posted on this site as well. In addition, slides to accompany lectures, review questions for exams, assigned short paper topics, and scores will be posted there. Please make sure you are able to view slides created in Powerpoint. You may need to download a Powerpoint viewer, available free from many sites including www.microsoft.com/downloads. Alternatively, slides can be downloaded and printed using public computers at the university. You should already have a login ID and password through your university email account to access blackboard. If you are unfamiliar with blackboard or do not know your password, contact me as soon as possible.

Slides for lecture will be made available at least three hours in advance of the class (i.e., by one o'clock). Lecture slides will be located under Course Documents.

Course Requirements:

Grades for the course will be based on

- Two **in-class exams** and one **final exam** (60% of the final grade, with each exam being worth 20%)
- Three **short papers** addressing assigned topics (40% of the final grade, with the first paper worth 10% and the second two papers worth 15%)
- Extra credit** (to improve your final grade by up to 3%) can be gained through participation in Psychology Department research (via the Psychology Department's human subjects pool) along with a brief description (1-2 pages) of each study you participated in. Each study that you participate in along with the description will result in your final grade being raised by 1%. Studies must be completed by the last day of classes, Friday, March 17th, and study descriptions must be turned in as hard copies to the instructor's mailbox in Straub Hall by the following Monday, March 20th at 4:00 pm or via e-mail by 5:00 pm. No other extra credit options will be given.

Posting of Grades

Scores for papers and exams will be posted on blackboard throughout the course. Please do not wait until after final grades are submitted to dispute a grade; keep track of your scores as they are posted, and alert me **in writing** (e-mail is fine) as soon as possible if you think that there has been a mistake in paper or exam grading.

In-class exams will take place at the beginning of class on the dates given below. The final exam for this class is on Thursday, March 23rd at 1:00. Exams will consist of multiple-choice and short answer questions. Each exam accounts for 20% of your final grade. The final exam will not be different in length than the previous two exams. Review questions will be posted one week in advance of the scheduled exam; more information on the exams will also be given in class as their scheduled day approaches.

Exams are not cumulative; however, general principles and definitions discussed during the first few weeks will be relevant throughout the course. Thus, understanding key concepts introduced early on will be required to do well on all exams.

Missing Exams: If you cannot attend class on a given in-class exam day (and thus miss the exam), you can make up the exam during my office hours but **not at any other time**. **If you miss an exam, you *must* contact me** prior to or on the day of the missed exam to arrange which office hour you will use for your make-up. **Make-up exams must be taken within one week from the day of the missed exam, except the final exam, which must be taken by Friday, March 24th at 5:00.** An exam with questions different from the missed exam may be administered as the make-up exam; even though the questions may be different, you may not discuss the previous exam with classmates who took that exam. If you do not contact me on the day of the missed exam, you will not be able to make up that exam unless you have a doctor's note or other official documentation that demonstrates that you were unable to contact me during the day of the missed exam. A bonus short answer question will be offered to students taking the exam in class; this question will **not** be available to students taking a make-up.

Three short papers (each 5-7 pages) will be due on the dates given below. Papers must address topics described in Paper Topics under Course Documents on the blackboard course website. For each paper, you will write a 5-7-page double-spaced discussion of the assigned topic. Guidelines for paper formatting and stylistic conventions are available on blackboard under Course Documents as well. Topics will be posted on blackboard as the due date for their corresponding papers approaches.

You may turn in papers as hard copies in class or to the instructor's mailbox in Straub Hall. If you turn in a hard copy at Straub Hall, make sure that you turn it in to the Psychology department secretary, Cindy Salmon, and specify that you need the paper time-stamped and delivered to my mailbox.

Late papers will have a letter grade deducted every day that they are late unless a doctor's note or similar documentation is given demonstrating why you were unable to write/turn in your paper.

Extra credit to improve your overall grade by up to 3% can be earned by participating in Psychology Department research through the Psychology Department Human Subjects Pool. For each hour of participation you can earn a 1% improvement to your mark as long as you hand in a brief (1-2 page) description of the goals and methodologies of the research for each study you participated in. The coordinator of the Human Subjects Pool, Jess Holbrook, will be providing our class with handouts containing details regarding your possible participation, and you can also gain information by contacting Jess by email at hscoord@uoregon.edu. You can also gain additional information by going to the HSP website at <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~hscoord>.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

T	January 10	Introduction	
Th	January 12	Infancy I	Chapter 4
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T	January 17	Infancy II	Chapter 5 and Reading 1
Th	January 19	Language Development I	Chapter 6

T	January 24	Language Development II WRITING ASSIGNMENT 1 DUE	Reading 2
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Th	January 26	Conceptual Development I	Chapter 7
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T	January 31	Conceptual Development II	Reading 3
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Th	February 2	EXAM I (covers all material through 1/31/06)	
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T	February 7	Theory of Mind & Pretense	Reading 4
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Th	February 9	Autism	Reading 5
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February 14	Theories of Social and Emotional Development I WRITING ASSIGNMENT 2 DUE	Chapter 9
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Th	February 16	Theories of Social and Emotional Development II	Chapter 10
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T	February 21	Attachment and Self	Chapter 11
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Th	February 23	Family and Peers I	Chapter 12
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T	February 28	EXAM II (covers material from 2/7 through 2/23)	
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Th	March 2	Family and Peers II	Chapter 13
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T	March 7	Intelligence and Academic	
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		Achievement	Chapter 8
Th	March 9	Psychopathology in Childhood WRITING ASSIGNMENT 3 DUE	Reading 6
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T	March 14	Current "Hot Topics"	Reading 7 & 8
Th	March 16	Wrapping Up	

FINAL EXAM on THURSDAY, MARCH 23rd at 1:00

FOUR IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL NOTES:

Turning in Assignments via e-mail: All papers must be turned in as a hard copy, either in class or to my mailbox in Straub Hall. Study descriptions (for optional extra credit, see above) may be turned in via e-mail, but you are responsible for checking that I have sent a confirmation e-mail to you letting you know that I can open and read what you have sent me.

Academic Honesty: As a member of the university community you are expected to be honest and forthright in all your academic endeavors. To falsify the results of one's research, to present the words, ideas, data, or work of another as one's own, or to cheat on an examination corrupts the essential process by which knowledge is advanced. All work submitted in this course must be your own and produced exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly acknowledged and documented. For the consequences of academic dishonesty, refer to the Schedule of Classes published quarterly. Violations will be taken seriously, may be grounds for automatic failure of the course, and are noted on student disciplinary records. If you are in doubt regarding any aspect of these issues as they pertain to this course, please consult with the instructor before you complete any relevant requirements of the course. (Text adopted here as recommended from the UO web site regarding academic honesty at: <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~conduct>)

Specifically for this course: Group discussion outside of class is (of course!) encouraged. However, all written assignments must be done independently.

Students with Directory Restricted Access: This course includes required on-line participation that will involve use of electronic mail. If you have restricted access to your directory information and wish to have special arrangements made for this course, please notify the instructor immediately.

Students with Disabilities: If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with the instructor soon. It would be wise to contact Disability Services (164 Oregon Hall, 346-1155). Also please request that the Counselor for Students with Disabilities send a letter verifying your disability by contacting Counselor for Students with Disabilities: Molly Sirois, 346-3211, 164 Oregon Hall, 346-1073, sirois@uoregon.edu

