

# **Cognitive Development**

## **Psy 475/575**

### **Instructor**

Brad Sheese, Ph.D., [sheeseb@uoregon.edu](mailto:sheeseb@uoregon.edu), 541-346-0837

Straub 424, Office hours: Wednesday 3:00 to 4:00 and by appointment. Please e-mail me to set up a time.

### **Course Description**

This course will cover cognitive development with an emphasis on infancy and early childhood. Major topics covered will include perception, attention, memory, language, and social cognition.

### **Goals and Learning Objectives of Course**

This course is designed as a broad introduction to cognitive development. It is intended to familiarize students with current empirical research and theoretical approaches to understanding how cognitive processes develop over time. Students who complete the course should be:

1. Informed consumers of cognitive development research. Students should have sufficiently mastered the major concepts, methods, and theoretical approaches so that they are able to understand new research on cognitive development.
2. Effective critics of cognitive development research. Students should be able to critically evaluate the contributions and limitations of new research on cognitive development.
3. Content producers. Students should be able to synthesize existing research to produce novel observations about the current content and future directions of cognitive developmental research.

### **Prerequisites**

WR 121 and 122 or 123; PSY 303

### **Text and Supplemental Readings**

Bjorklund, D. F. (2005). *Children's Thinking*. Fourth Edition. Wadsworth.  
Supplemental readings will be posted to blackboard.

### **Course Points**

Course points will be earned through exams, quizzes, and classroom exercises. The majority of the class points will come from the following:

- 100 Points – Exam 1
- 100 Points – Exam 2
- 100 Points – Final Exam

### **Grading**

- A. 90% of available course points
- B. 80% of available course points
- C. 70% of available course points
- D. 60% of available course points

### **Exam and Quiz Format**

Exams will include multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. Essay questions may include content from any material previously covered in class. Quizzes may be multiple choice, short answer, and essay. Quizzes may include take-home essays.

### **Grade Allowance**

Your lowest exam score will automatically be dropped at the end of the term. Your three lowest classroom activity scores (quizzes and other exercises) will be dropped at the end of the term.

### **Make Up Work**

Missed exams, quizzes, and class assignments will automatically be dropped (see section on grade allowance). No make up work will be available. If you anticipate missing more than three classes this term you should discuss your enrollment with the instructor at the beginning of the term.

### **Course Schedule**

See attached. All dates are tentative. Modifications to the schedule will be posted to blackboard.

### **Guidelines for Teaching and Learning: Best Practices and Expectations**

The Psychology Department has guidelines for instructors and students. Please read these guidelines carefully: <http://psychweb.uoregon.edu/guidelines/>

### **Academic Integrity**

UO's statement on integrity: <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~conduct> "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 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."

Do not cheat. Do not plagiarize. It is bad for your intellectual development.

### **Students with Disabilities**

If you have a documented disability and need accommodations please make arrangements with the instructor or contact Disability Services (164 Oregon Hall, 346-1155). Also please request a letter verifying your disability from the Counselor for Students with Disabilities: *Molly Sirois*, [sirois@uoregon.edu](mailto:sirois@uoregon.edu).

### **Acknowledgements**

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