

**PSY 480/580**  
**Developmental Psychopathology**  
**Winter Term, 2010**  
**Gerlinger Hall 302**  
**(Tuesday and Thursday 8:30 to 9:50am)**

*University of Oregon*  
*Department of Psychology*

**Instructor:** Tom Dishion, Ph.D  
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**Office hours:** Th 10:00 to 11:00am Straub 377

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**Office Hours:** Upon appointment, Straub 377

**Course Objectives:**

This course is designed for upper division undergraduate and graduate students in the behavioral sciences. The course provides students with an overview of the field of developmental psychopathology, including the epidemiology of child and adolescent mental health, research strategies and methodologies, and key diagnostic issues underlying child and adolescent psychopathology. In addition, we will focus on how knowledge of the etiology of psychopathology in children and adolescents leads to improved prevention and treatment approaches. Specifically, the following are the learning objectives of this course:

- 1) Identify, define and describe major forms of psychopathology in children and adolescents and developmental trends from age 2 to 18;
- 2) Comprehend and critique published reports in peer reviewed journal articles focusing on some aspect of child and adolescent psychopathology;
- 3) Be familiar with the major research methods and strategies used to study and understand causal processes relevant to child and adolescent psychopathology;
- 4) Be familiar with major findings on the development of psychopathology from early childhood through adolescence;
- 5) Design a research study that would potentially contribute to knowledge of etiology of children's mental health and/or disorder (graduate students only);

**Course Description:**

The course is conducted as an advanced undergraduate course. Learning activities involve reading, lectures by the instructor, and graduate student and guest speakers.

Although the course focuses on child psychopathology, there is an emphasis on discussing what is known about developmental pathways from childhood through adulthood. Class lectures and discussions will focus on the integration of children's normative development, psychopathology, and assessment as well as implications for intervention.

The reading for this course includes one text and posted readings on select issues within the domain of developmental psychopathology. Students will be expected to do the readings prior to each class. Methodological issues in studying development and psychopathology will be discussed within both instructor and student presentations.

**Readings:**

(1) Beauchaine, T.P. & Hinshaw, S. P. (2008). Child and Adolescent Psychopathology. John Wiley and Sons, New York.

(2) Readings in Developmental Psychopathology (posted Blackboard).

**Course Format:**

The course is a combination of lectures and discussion. Students work individually on a term paper for the course in addition to taking five short exams every two weeks on Blackboard. Graduate students will make brief (30 minute) presentations on their term projects during the term.

**Course Requirements:**

Points comprise the evaluation criteria for this course. 100 total points are available, grades are as follows:

92=A  
90=A-  
88=B+  
81=B  
80=B-  
78=C+  
70=C  
69=C-  
60=D

**1. Course Participation (10 points):** Participation is measured by discussions in class as well as contribution of discussion questions on Blackboard, prior to class. Attendance will be assessed by the submission of a 3-sentence lecture summary at the end of randomly selected classes. However, if you have the flu

please stay home and communicate with the instructors about possible make up assignments.

2. Brief Exams (50 points): There will be 5 brief exams given every two weeks administered on blackboard. Within each exam, you will be given 10 multiple-choice questions on core concepts introduced in the lecture and readings. You will receive a point for each correct answer. The exams will be available 1 hour after class and for 24 hours. You will be given 30 minutes to respond once you have started the exam. *One exam will be dropped from your total grade, so your total number of points will be calculated based on the percentage of correct answers obtained in the four brief exams with the highest scores (e.g..90 x 50= 45).*

3. Term Paper (40 points): For undergraduate students, the 10-15-page paper will focus on the development and ecology of some aspect of child and adolescent psychopathology, or on a method for studying psychopathology in children and adolescents. Graduate students will do the same, but add a research proposal for a 15- 20 page paper. The research proposal can be focused on content or on a methodology. The points are accumulative, consisting of 2 points for an accepted paper topic, and 4 points for four abstracts. Thus, following the topic statement and abstracts, up to 34 points will be given for the term paper. The topic statement and abstracts must be submitted by the date indicated on the following calendar (see handout on term papers).

4. Extra Credit Readings / Research Activity (1-5 points): 1 point extra credit for reading and summarizing 1 supplemental reading during the week it is assigned (1 point each). Participation in research activity relevant to the content of *Developmental Psychopathology* course can potentially earn extra credit. Credit will be given for a 1-page summary of the research activity and a discussion of the relevance of the activity to the understanding children's development, mental health or interventions for children's mental health. Please discuss with instructors prior to making your commitment to determine points.

6. Extra Credit Lecture Support (1-5 points): Find videotape or appropriate movie clip that provides perspective on the phenomenology and dynamics of any of the psychopathologies presented in this course. Please consult with instructors on appropriateness of exemplary video media before showing in class. Please let instructors know 1 week before the lecture you intend to supplement. A total of 5 points extra credit are available for this course (including readings and lecture support).

#### **Using Blackboard and e-mail:**

The website for this course is embedded within the Blackboard software located at <http://blackboard.uoregon.edu>. If you need assistance you can get more information on <http://libweb.uoregon.edu/scis/blackboard/help/>, or visit the Computer Help Desk, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor South, Knight Library, (541) 346-1807. You will find all information related to the course on this website. The Concept Quizzes will be administered using the Blackboard, and will be announced in class. We

hope that your use of Blackboard will facilitate easy access to the course materials, supplementary readings and other material of interest. Having a functional university-based e-mail account (i.e., yourname@uoregon.edu) is mandatory for this class. Important material or deadlines may be communicated through both e-mail and Blackboard.

**Special accommodations:**

If you require special accommodations because of language or a documented disability, please inform the instructor(s) immediately, so we can support your success in this course. Students with documented disabilities should ask the Counselor for Students with Disabilities to send a verifying letter to the instructor by the end of the first week of class.

*Make-up exams and late term papers will be granted only under exceptional circumstances (e.g., documentation of serious illness or family emergency).*

	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>To Do</b>
<b>Week 1</b>	<b>01/05</b>	<b>Overview of Development &amp; Psychopathology, Studying the environment</b>	Ch. 1, reading	
	<b>01/07</b>			
<b>Week 2</b>	<b>01/12</b>	<b>Genetic, Temperament and brain imaging</b>	Ch. 5, 6, 10	Blackboard exam 1 01/14
	<b>01/14</b>			
<b>Week 3</b>	<b>01/19</b>	<b>Ecological perspective, moderation/mediation</b>	Ch 2 & 3, reading	Paper Topic Statement 01/21 (Submit through Blackboard)
	<b>01/21</b>			
<b>Week 4</b>	<b>01/26</b>	<b>Attention Deficit Disorder, Autism Spectrum Disorder</b>	Ch. 19, 11 reading	Blackboard exam 2 01/28
	<b>01/28</b>			
<b>Week 5</b>	<b>02/02</b>	<b>Antisocial Behavior Drug and Alcohol Abuse</b>	Ch. 12, 13, 14	
	<b>02/04</b>			
<b>Week 6</b>	<b>02/09</b>	<b>Child Depression Suicide Prevention</b>	Ch. 16	Blackboard exam 3 02/11
	<b>02/11</b>			
<b>Week 7</b>	<b>02/16</b>	<b>Anxiety Disorders Trauma in children</b>	Ch 15, 17	
	<b>02/18</b>			
<b>Week 8</b>	<b>02/23</b>	<b>Bipolar Schizophrenia, Treatment foster care</b>	Ch 18, 20	Blackboard exam 4 02/25 4 abstracts for Term Paper 02/25 (Submit through Blackboard)
	<b>02/25</b>			
<b>Week 9</b>	<b>03/02</b>	<b>Eating Disorders: Bulimia &amp; Anorexia</b>	Ch. 21 reading	Bring your draft of the final paper in class on Thursday
	<b>03/04</b>			

