

**PSY 475 COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT SPRING 2016 SYLLABUS**

**Class meets T/Th 12:00-1:20 PM in Lawrence 166**

**INSTRUCTOR**

Dr. Caitlin Fausey  
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**TEACHING ASSISTANTS**

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Office Hours: Wednesday 12:30-2:00p  
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**COURSE OVERVIEW**

How do we get so smart? How do we go from being babbling babies held in the arms of others to walking talking toddlers (and beyond!)? How do we learn to perceive the world around us and what to pay attention to? How do we learn to talk, remember the past, or predict the future? How do experiences in infancy and childhood matter for building knowledge? These are the questions we will attempt to answer as we survey the major topics in cognitive development.

**COURSE MATERIALS**

There will be no textbook in PSY 475. All readings and study guides will be provided electronically as PDF files on our Canvas site.

**INSTRUCTION PHILOSOPHY**

This is not your first course in psychology and I expect that you look forward to delving deeper. You come to this course with more skills than you may realize -- you have learned about many psychological phenomena, you have tackled foundational psychology methods and statistics, and you may have worked in a psychology research lab. Even if not all of these are true of your particular experience, I can guarantee that you know more than you think you do.

If your goal is to successfully read a Cognitive Development textbook, you don't need me. If you want to understand how real discoveries about human development are made, then you do need me. Original research articles are your best way into understanding how scientists develop questions, go about testing hypotheses, and share discoveries with the world. Reading and discussing original research articles is a challenge that you are ready to tackle, with appropriate support. That is what I am here for, and that is what we'll work on throughout this course. Welcome.

**LEARNING GOALS FOR THIS COURSE**

You will develop many skills in this course. Your efforts will help you learn to:

- (1) Identify major theories, research findings, and methodological approaches in cognitive development and apply research findings to human behavior in everyday life.
- (2) Identify key research questions and hypotheses in primary scientific articles and critically evaluate the evidence presented.

## EXPECTATIONS & GRADING

Your job is to come to class, do the readings, get involved in the material, work through study guides, and ask lots of questions. The class grades will be based on in-class quizzes, thought assignments, and a final exam.

**Readings.** Expect to dedicate considerable time outside of class to the readings -- it will be both demanding and rewarding. You are expected to complete the assigned readings before the class and to take an active role in the class. Material from the readings will be on quizzes and the final exam. You will also apply principles from the readings to thought assignments.

**Quizzes.** In-class quizzes will happen every other Thursday (approximately; see syllabus). These quizzes are designed to help you use knowledge throughout the course. Each quiz will take no more than 30 minutes of our class time. Quizzes will cover material presented in lectures and in the readings. You can prepare for these quizzes by coming to class, doing the reading, and working through study guides that will be provided.

Students may drop one quiz grade, no questions asked. This could be because you missed class on a quiz day (and so you received a 0 score) or it could be the lowest quiz grade of your 4 quizzes. Because of this generous policy, make-up quizzes will only be offered in extraordinary circumstances with documented proof of medical or family emergency. If you happen to miss a quiz day, you will drop that quiz.

**Thought assignments.** You will complete two thought assignments that prompt you to integrate course material with current hot topics in education, business, public health, and/or the law. The goal of these thought assignments is to encourage you to relate what you are learning to other things you care about. For each assignment, you will be provided with a set of possible questions. Your task will be to act as a "Cognitive Development Consultant": you will pick one question, design an experiment that will provide an empirical answer to that question, and summarize your predictions. For each assignment, you will submit a one-page single-spaced report to Canvas. The readings and lectures in this course will be very good preparation for these assignments and for your future success as a "Cognitive Development" consultant in your chosen profession. (Note: These assignments are referred to as "HW" -- for "Homework" -- on the syllabus. **Due dates are Thursday April 14, 2016 at 5 PM and Thursday May 12, 2016 at 5 PM**).

**Final Exam.** The final exam will cover material presented in lectures and in the readings. The final exam will be a cumulative exam covering the full quarter of material. According to the Final Exam Schedule from the Office of the Registrar, the final exam for this course will be given on **Tuesday June 7, 2016 at 8 AM**.

## FINAL LETTER GRADE

Final letter grades will be assigned according to the table on the right. Plusses, not minuses, will be assigned. "Percent" is calculated by a weighted average of the percent correct on all assignments, quizzes, and exams, adjusting for the percent that each counts toward your final grade. Decimals will be rounded to the nearest percent score.

### Final letter grades will be weighted like this:

In-class quizzes (best 3 of 4):	45% (each quiz = 15%)
Thought assignments:	30% (each HW = 15%)
Final exam:	25%

grade	percent
A+	97-100
A	90-96
B+	87-89
B	80-86
C+	77-79
C	70-76
D+	67-69
D	60-66
F	<=59

## **ACADEMIC HONESTY**

The short version: Don't cheat. Don't plagiarize. If you are unsure, please ask me.

As a member of the university community you are expected to be honest and forthright in all of 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.

It is considered cheating if you obtain any kind of information about answers and solutions to the work in this course from any non-intended source (including your peers) or if you transfer such information to others. You may not use notes, readings, or other aids during PSY 475 quizzes or exams. You may study with other students in preparation for an exam, but your answers on a quiz or exam must be your own.

It is also considered cheating if you lie to Dr. Fausey, Ms. Gluck, or Ms. Santillán about an absence relating to an assignment, quiz, or exam.

Another form of academic misconduct is plagiarism, or using someone else's ideas and words without appropriate citation on a written assignment. Do not copy from Wikipedia, other college students' papers, scholarly articles, websites, and a host of other sources. In this course, all submitted work will be checked by VeriCite. Do not attempt plagiarism because you will be caught. Plagiarism is academic misconduct and cases of plagiarism will be treated as such.

Please note that it is mandatory for instructors to report suspected academic misconduct to the Office of Student Conduct. 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.

For more information regarding academic honesty and the student conduct code at the University of Oregon, visit the University's Office of Student Life website at: <https://studentlife.uoregon.edu/conduct>

## **STATEMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring accommodation, please contact UO Accessible Education Center.

## FAQ

### What if I miss a quiz or exam?

With the exception of extreme and unforeseen circumstances, contacting Dr. Fausey on the day of (or even worse, after) the quiz/exam will be considered an unexcused absence and will result in a 0 on the quiz/exam. If you have a scheduling conflict and cannot take a quiz or an exam at its appointed date and time, you must tell Dr. Fausey as soon as possible. Your best strategy is to take quizzes and exams on their scheduled date/time.

### What if I turn in an assignment late?

If you submit an assignment after its due date, your grade on the assignment will be reduced by 50%. This is true whether you submit your assignment 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 days late. After 5 days, late work will no longer be accepted without some documented medical or family emergency. Your best strategy is to submit assignments on time.

### Do you grade on a curve? Offer extra credit?

No, I do not grade on a curve. No, I do not offer extra credit except for what is stated below. Your best strategy is to focus your energy on doing your best on all of your work.

### Optional: psychology research extra credit

You may choose only one of the following extra credit options. You may choose one or the other, but cannot get credit for both, nor for any combination of the two. Extra credit work is due by **Friday June 3, 2016, 5 PM**.

**Extra Credit Option 1:** Participate in Psychology Department research through the Psychology Department Human Subjects Pool. For each credit of participation assigned to Psych 475, you earn a 1% improvement to your final grade, for up to 3%. No more than 3% extra credit points are permitted. For more information, go to the HSP website at <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~hscoord> and/or contact the human subjects coordinator, Bill, by email at [hscoord@uoregon.edu](mailto:hscoord@uoregon.edu).

**Extra Credit Option 2:** Find an empirical article relevant to the study of cognitive development in a major, peer-reviewed journal, summarize it, and evaluate its contribution to our understanding of cognitive development. You will earn up to 3% extra credit, depending on the quality of your critique. A terrific critique is approximately 3 double-spaced pages with concise summary and insightful comments based on your knowledge developed throughout this course. Please seek approval of your article from Dr. Fausey before beginning your critique. To receive the extra credit, you will need to hand in a copy of the article and the critique.

### Do you take attendance?

No, I do not take attendance. I expect you to make responsible decisions about managing your time. Please note that this course uses no textbook and so the majority of your learning will come through class lectures and the opportunity to ask questions during class. Each lecture is designed with you in mind. Your best strategy is to show up and reap the benefits.

## DISCLAIMER

This syllabus is an outline of the course and its policies, which may be changed for reasonable purposes during the quarter at the instructor's discretion. You will be notified in class and/or via email if any changes are made to this syllabus and an updated syllabus will be provided on Canvas.

Day	Date	Description	Reading	Quiz / HW
INTRODUCTION				
T	Mar 29	Developmental milestones		
TH	Mar 31	What is cognitive development? How to read an empirical paper	Siegler Smith & Thelen Roediger & Gallo	
MOVING				
T	Apr 5	Crawling, cruising, walking	Adolph et al.	
SEEING				
TH	Apr 7	Visual attention: social	Frank et al.	QUIZ #1
T	Apr 12	Visual attention: objects	Smith et al.	
TH	Apr 14	<i>Why moving matters for seeing</i>	Kretch et al.	HW #1
TALKING				
T	Apr 19	Role of the environment	Weisleder & Fernald	QUIZ #2
TH	Apr 21	Sounds and words	Kuhl et al. Werker et al. Smith et al.	
T	Apr 26	Learning language	Baldwin	
TH	Apr 28	Meaning	Deák et al.	
T	May 3	<i>Why moving &amp; seeing matter for talking</i>	Yu & Smith	
LEARNING, REMEMBERING, & REASONING				
TH	May 5	Learning patterns: language	Saffran et al.	QUIZ #3
T	May 10	Learning patterns: vision & action	Fiser & Aslin Baldwin et al.	HW #2
TH	May 12	Learning categories	Madole & Oakes	
T	May 17	Attention, memory, & learning	Fisher et al.	QUIZ #4
TH	May 19	Relational thinking	Kotovskiy & Gentner	
T	May 24	<i>Why talking matters for learning, remembering, &amp; reasoning</i>	Christie & Gentner	
DEVELOPMENTAL PATHWAYS				
TH	May 26	Class discussion: Cog. Development real-world policy	Neville et al.	Come with questions!
T	May 31	Putting it all together: Course Review	Smith	
TH	June 2	Putting it all together: Course Review		
FINAL EXAM WEEK				
T	June 7	8:00 AM - 10:00 AM. CUMULATIVE FINAL EXAM.		

## Reading List

**These are required readings.** Each reading is posted on Canvas and is assigned for a particular class session. Class sessions and study guides will help you identify and reinforce the key points from each reading. Your best bet is to read before class, come to class, and work through study guides.

### **INTRODUCTION**

- Siegler, R. (2014). Cognitive Development in Childhood. In R. Biswas-Diener & E. Diener (Eds.), *Noba Textbook Series: Psychology*. Champaign, IL: DEF publishers. DOI: nobaproject.com.
- Smith, L. B., & Thelen, E. (2003). Development as a dynamic system. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*, 7(8), 343-348.
- Roediger, H.L., & Gallo, D.A. (1999). Appendix: How to read a journal article in cognitive psychology. In D.A. Balota & E.J. Marsh (Eds.), *Cognitive psychology: key readings*. New York: Psychology Press.

### **MOVING**

- Adolph, K. E., Berger, S. E., & Leo, A. J. (2011). Developmental continuity? Crawling, cruising, and walking. *Developmental Science*, 14(2), 306-318.

### **SEEING**

- Frank, M. C., Vul, E., & Johnson, S. P. (2009). Development of infants' attention to faces during the first year. *Cognition*, 110(2), 160-170.
- Smith, L. B., Yu, C., & Pereira, A. F. (2011). Not your mother's view: The dynamics of toddler visual experience. *Developmental Science*, 14(1), 9-17.
- Kretch, K. S., Franchak, J. M., & Adolph, K. E. (2014). Crawling and walking infants see the world differently. *Child Development*, 85(4), 1503-1518.

### **TALKING**

- Weisleder, A., & Fernald, A. (2013). Talking to children matters: Early language experience strengthens processing and builds vocabulary. *Psychological Science*, 24(11), 2143-2152.
- Kuhl, P. K., Williams, K. A., Lacerda, F., Stevens, K. N., & Lindblom, B. (1992). Linguistic experience alters phonetic perception in infants by 6 months of age. *Science*, 255(5044), 606-608.
- Werker, J. F., Gilbert, J. H., Humphrey, K., & Tees, R. C. (1981). Developmental aspects of cross-language speech perception. *Child Development*, 52(1), 349-355.
- Smith, L. B., Jones, S. S., Landau, B., Gershkoff-Stowe, L., & Samuelson, L. (2002). Object name learning provides on-the-job training for attention. *Psychological Science*, 13(1), 13-19.
- Baldwin, D. A. (1993). Early referential understanding: Infants' ability to recognize referential acts for what they are. *Developmental Psychology*, 29(5), 832.
- Deák, G. O., Krasno, A. M., Triesch, J., Lewis, J., & Sepeta, L. (2014). Watch the hands: infants can learn to follow gaze by seeing adults manipulate objects. *Developmental Science*, 17(2), 270-281.
- Yu, C., & Smith, L. B. (2012). Embodied attention and word learning by toddlers. *Cognition*, 125(2), 244-262.

### **LEARNING, REMEMBERING, & REASONING**

- Saffran, J. R., Aslin, R. N., & Newport, E. L. (1996). Statistical learning by 8-month-old infants. *Science*, 274(5294), 1926-1928.
- Fiser, J., & Aslin, R. N. (2002). Statistical learning of new visual feature combinations by infants. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 99(24), 15822-15826.
- Baldwin, D. A., Baird, J. A., Saylor, M. M., & Clark, M. A. (2001). Infants parse dynamic action. *Child Development*, 72(3), 708-717.
- Madole, K. L., & Oakes, L. M. (1999). Making sense of infant categorization: Stable processes and changing representations. *Developmental Review*, 19(2), 263-296.
- Fisher, A.V., Godwin, K.E., & Seltman, H. (2014). Visual environment, attention allocation, and learning in young children: When too much of a good thing may be bad. *Psychological Science*, 25(7), 1362-1370.
- Kotovsky, L., & Gentner, D. (1996). Comparison and categorization in the development of relational similarity. *Child Development*, 67(6), 2797-2822.
- Christie, S., & Gentner, D. (2012). Language and cognition in development. In M.M. Spivey, K. McRae, & M. Joanisse (Eds.), *The Cambridge Handbook of Psycholinguistics* (pp. 653-673). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

### **DEVELOPMENTAL PATHWAYS**

- Neville, H. J., Stevens, C., Pakulak, E., Bell, T. A., Fanning, J., Klein, S., & Isbell, E. (2013). Family-based training program improves brain function, cognition, and behavior in lower socioeconomic status preschoolers. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 110(29), 12138-12143.
- Smith, L.B. (2013). It's all connected: Pathways in visual object recognition and early noun learning. *American Psychologist*, 68(8), 618-629.

### Further readings for interested students

**Note: These are not required readings.** You will not be tested on any content that is specific to these articles. These references are provided here for students who may be interested in learning more about particular topics. Peruse this list to discover more gems about cognitive development! Enjoy!

- Adolph, K. E., Cole, W. G., Komati, M., Garciaguirre, J. S., Badaly, D., Lingeman, J. M., Chan, G. L. Y. , & Sotsky, R. B. (2012). How do you learn to walk? Thousands of steps and dozens of falls per day. *Psychological Science*, 23, 1387-1394.
- Beckage, N., Smith, L., & Hills, T. (2011). Small worlds and semantic network growth in typical and late talkers. *PloS One*, 6(5), e19348.
- Colombo, J. (2001). The development of visual attention in infancy. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 52(1), 337-367.
- Franchak, J. M., Kretch, K. S., Soska, K. C., & Adolph, K. E. (2011). Head-mounted eye-tracking: A new method to describe infant looking. *Child Development*, 82, 1738-1750.
- Johnson, S. P. (2010). Development of visual perception. *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Cognitive Science*. DOI: 10.1002/wcs.128
- Marchman, V. A., & Fernald, A. (2008). Speed of word recognition and vocabulary knowledge in infancy predict cognitive and language outcomes in later childhood. *Developmental Science*, 11, F9-F16.
- Oakes, L. M., & Bauer, P. J. (2007). *Short-and long-term memory in infancy and early childhood: Taking the first steps toward remembering*. Oxford University Press, USA. (Note: This is a book; not posted on Canvas.)
- Oller, D. K., & Eilers, R. E. (1988). The role of audition in infant babbling. *Child Development*, 441-449.
- Roy, B. C., Frank, M. C., & Roy, D. (2009). Exploring word learning in a high-density longitudinal corpus. *Proceedings of the 31st annual meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*.
- Ruff, H. A., & Lawson, K. R. (1990). Development of sustained, focused attention in young children during free play. *Developmental Psychology*, 26(1), 85-93.
- Ruff, H. A., & Rothbart, M. K. (2001). *Attention in early development: Themes and variations*. Oxford University Press. (Note: This is a book; not posted on Canvas.)
- Smith, L. B., & Sheya, A. (2010). Is cognition enough to explain cognitive development?. *Topics in Cognitive Science*, 2(4), 725-735.
- Smith, L. B., & Yu, C. (2008). Infants rapidly learn word-referent mappings via cross-situational statistics. *Cognition*, 106(3), 1558-1568.
- Yoshida, H., & Smith, L. B. (2008). What's in view for toddlers? Using a head camera to study visual experience. *Infancy*, 13(3), 229-248.