



Psychology 451

Cognitive Development

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Lecture Location: SS 541
Lecture Days/Time: TuTh 14:00-15:14
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Office Hours: TBA

Course Description and Goals

In this course we will study neonatal, infant and child development, including both theoretical accounts as well as classic and current research findings. The prime focus will be basic developmental processes including perceptual, cognitive and language development.

Prerequisites

Psyc 205 – Principles of Psychology
Psyc 312 – Experimental Design and Quantitative Methods for Psychology
Psyc 351 – Developmental Psychology

Course objectives

- introduce students to the theories, methodologies, issues, and current experimental findings in the field of cognitive development during infancy and childhood
- encourage students to think critically about conceptual and empirical issues
- provide students with direct experience reading empirical articles and conducting child study techniques (designed and conducted in small groups in the lab sections)
- provide students with experience in giving oral presentations and in writing research reports

Required Text

Flavell, J. H. Miller, P. H. & Miller, S. A. (2002). *Cognitive Development*, Fourth Edition. NJ: Prentice Hall. This required text provides important background reading for the topics covered in this course. Available at the University Bookstore.

In order to best fulfill the needs of the course the remainder of the required course readings will be drawn from several sources, including original journal articles. Additional readings are required as listed later in the course outline. Those readings marked with an * are available online and will be accessible on Blackboard. A package including the remainder of the additional required readings will be available for purchase at the beginning of the term.

Additional references for required readings

- Crain, W. (1992). Piaget's cognitive development theory (chpt. 6). *Theories of Development: Concepts and applications*. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall.
- *DeLoache, J.S., Miller, K.F. & Rosengren, K.S. (1997). The credible shrinking room: Very young children's performance with symbolic and nonsymbolic relations. *Psychological Science, 8*, 308-313
- *DeLoache, J. S. (2000). Dual representation and young children's use of scale models. *Child Development, 71*, 329-338.
- *Gelman, S.A., & Coley, J.D. (1990). The importance of knowing a Dodo is a bird: Categories and inferences in 2-year-old children. *Developmental Psychology, 26*, 796-804.
- Hala, S. & Carpendale, J. (1997). All in the mind. Children's understanding of mental life. In S. Hala (Ed.), *The Development of Social Cognition*. Psychology Press.
- *Hala, S., Hug, S., & Henderson, H. (2003). Executive functioning and false-belief understanding in preschool children: Two tasks are harder than one. *Journal of Cognition and Development, 4*, 275-298.
- Harris, P, Brown, E. Marriott, C. Whittall, S. & Harmer, S. (1991). Monsters, ghosts and witches: Testing the limits of the fantasy-reality distinction in young children. *British Journal of Developmental Psychology, 9*, 105-123.
- Hill, E. & Frith, U. (2003). Understanding autism: insights from mind and brain. In U. Frith and E. L. Hill (Eds) *Autism: mind and brain. Philosophical transactions of the Royal Society, 358*, 275-427.
- *Jaswal, V. & Markman, E. (2007). Looks aren't everything: 24-month-olds' willingness to accept unexpected labels. *Journal of Cognition and Development, 8*, 93-111.
- *Johnson. S.P., Cohen, L.B., Marks, K.H. & Johnson, K.L. (2003). Young infants' perception of object unity in rotation displays. *Infancy, 4*, 285-295
- Markman, E.M. (1991). The whole object, taxonomic, and mutual exclusivity assumptions as initial constraints on word meanings. In J.P. Byrnes & S.A. Gelman (Eds.), *Perspectives on language and cognition: Interrelations in development*. (pp. 72-106). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- *Mondloch et al. (1999). Face perception during early infancy. *Psychological Science, 10*, 419-422.
- *Ornstein, P.A. & Haden, C.A. (2001). Memory development or the development of memory? *Current Directions in Psychological Science, 10*, 202-205.
- Siegler, R.S. (1998). Information-processing theories of development (chpt. 3). *Children's thinking*. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall.
- *Tomasello, M. Language Development. (2011). In U. Goswami (Ed.) *The Wiley-Blackwell Handbook of Childhood Cognitive Development*. (2nd ed.) pp 239-257. Wiley-Blackwell.
- *Wakeley, A. Rivera, S., & Langer, J. (2000). Can young infants add and subtract? *Child Development, 71*, 1525-1524.
- *Wynn, K. (2000). Findings of addition and subtraction in infants are robust and consistent. Reply to Wakeley, Rivera & Langer. *Child Development, 71*, 1535-1536.

Evaluation

Midterm exam: 30% of final grade

Final exam: 35% of final grade

Lab: 35% of final grade

Class Components

The two exams will be take-home exams. This is to enable students to provide their best demonstration of critical thinking and mastery of the course material. For both the midterm and the final exam, the exam questions will be distributed 9 days prior to the due date for submission of the completed exam. That is, students will have 9 days to complete the exams. The exams will be essay in format. Exams **must be submitted to me electronically** by the end of the day (midnight) on the due date as noted below in the schedule. Students are also welcome to submit an optional additional paper copy if they choose—but they also must submit an electronic copy by the deadline as well. A penalty of 10% per day, including weekends and holidays, will be levied for exams handed in late. Please ensure you are vigilant about backing up your files. As you have a full 9 days to complete the exam an 11th hour computer malfunction will NOT be accepted as a valid reason for failure to submit a completed exam on time. Collaboration on take home exams is NOT permitted – Students are to submit independent completed exams. Exact details of length and specific requirements will be distributed with each set of exam questions. Exact readings required will be announced and posted on Blackboard prior to each exam being distributed.

Laboratory component:

The lab component is designed to provide students with direct experience with research in Cognitive Developmental Psychology. As such, students will actively participate in small group research projects. Students will gain experience in library research, research design, data collection and analyses, writing research reports and presenting the research findings. The specific requirements will be described in more detail during the first lab meeting. You will receive a separate course outline for the lab sessions noting exact due dates. A penalty of 10% per day, including holidays and weekends) will be levied for late assignments, up to a maximum of 30% penalty. Assignments submitted 3 days following their due date will not be accepted and will be assigned a grade of 0%. Presentations missed without a valid reason, as determined by the University Calendar, will be assigned a grade of 0%. Late submissions of final papers will **NOT** be accepted. Papers submitted after 4:30 pm on Dec [5th](#) will be assigned a grade of 0%.

Evaluation of lab component

1st Oral Presentation 4% of final grade

Ethics form 4% of final grade

Article Critique 3% of final grade

2nd Oral Presentation 4% of final grade

Final Research Paper 20% (is the standard practice in the Department))

Students must achieve a passing grade on both the class and lab components to pass this course.

Grading Scale

A+	96-100%	B+	80-84%	C+	67-71%	D+	54-58%
A	90-95%	B	76-79%	C	63-66%	D	50-53%
A-	85-89%	B-	72-75%	C-	59-62%	F	0-49%

As stated in the University Calendar, it is at the instructor’s discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between two letter grades.

To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (e.g., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90% = A but 89.4% will be rounded down to 89% = A-).

Tentative Lecture Schedule

This schedule is a guideline only. Specific lecture topics may vary from time to time.

Date	Topic	Required Reading
Sep 11 – Oct 18	Introduction and Overview	Flavell Chpt 1
	Theories of Cognitive Development	Crain chpt Flavell text chpt 5 pp 135-149 (Piaget) Siegler chpt..
	Infancy: methods of study	Flavell Chpt 2
	Infancy: Perceptual Development	Mondlach et al article Johnson et al article Flavell p 277 – 279 (speech perception)
	Infant Cognition	Wakely et al article Wynn article Flavell chapt 3 Flavell chapt 4 – numerical relations pp 129-133
October 16	EXAM 1 will be distributed	
October 25	EXAM 1 is due by midnight	
October 23 – Dec 6 No class Nov 13 –Reading Days	Symbolic Representation	DeLoache articles (2) Flavell Chapt 4 – remainder of chapter
	Concepts and Categories	Jaswal & Markman article Flavell chpt 4
	Pretense Appearance-Reality	Harris et al. article Flavell chpt 6
	Theory of Mind	Hala & Carpendale chpt

	Autism Memory Development	Hala et al, 2003 article Hill & Frith Article Flavell chpt 7 Ornstein & Haden article
Dec 4	Final Take-home will be distributed	
Dec 13 – FINAL TAKE-HOME EXAM DUE BY MIDNIGHT		

Reappraisal of Grades

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (e.g., term paper, essay, test) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within 15 days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next 15 days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same. If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within 15 days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct.

Academic Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of this course.

Absence From A Test/Exam

Makeup tests/exams are NOT an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test/exam for health reasons; the student will be required to pay any cost associated with this Statement. Students who miss a test/exam have 48 hours to contact the instructor and to schedule a makeup test/exam. Students who do not schedule a makeup test/exam with the instructor within this 48-hour period forfeit the right to a makeup test/exam. At the instructor's discretion, a makeup test/exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled test/exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test/exam.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act

The FOIP legislation disallows the practice of having student's retrieve tests and assignments from a public place. Therefore, tests and assignments may be returned to students during class/lab, or during office hours, or via the Department Office (Admin 275), or will be made available only for viewing during exam review sessions scheduled by the Department. Tests and assignments will be shredded after one year. Instructors should take care to not link students' names with their grades, UCIDs, or other FOIP-sensitive information.

Course Credits for Research Participation (Max 2% of final grade)

Students in most psychology courses are eligible to participate in Departmentally approved research and earn credits toward their final grades. **A maximum of two credits (2%) per course, including this course, may be applied to the student's final grade. Students earn 0.5% (0.5 credits) for each full 30 minutes of participation.** The demand for timeslots may exceed the supply in a given term. Thus, students are not guaranteed that there will be enough studies available to them to meet their credit requirements. Students should seek studies early in the term and should frequently check for open timeslots. Students can create an account and participate in Departmentally approved research studies at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>. The last day to participate in studies and to assign or reassign earned credits to courses is **Dec 7, 2012**

Evacuation Assembly Point

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>
Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

Student Organizations

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). They are located in Administration 170 and may be contacted at 403-220-5567.

Student Union VP Academic: Phone: 403-220-3911 suvpaca@ucalgary.ca

Student Union Faculty Rep.: Phone: 403-220-3913 socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course with no “W” notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **September 21, 2012**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **September 24, 2012**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **December 7, 2012**.