
PSY3362/CLDP3362 – COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT – Spring 2013

Mondays and Wednesdays 1:00 – 2:15 PM in GR 4.301

CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor

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GR 4.202A

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Teaching Assistant

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GR 4.608

Office hours: Mondays 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

Pre/co-requisite: PSY 4334 (Lifespan Development) or PSY 3310 (Child Development)

Course Description

This course focuses on the development of children's thinking from birth through adolescence. What tools are babies born with that help them learn and think about the world? How do infants go from that initial state to mature cognition? How does the social world influence cognitive development? What sort of individual differences might we see in how preschoolers and children think about the world? Beyond these key questions, we will also cover such specific topics as: theories of cognitive development, language development, the nature and development of categories and concepts, intelligence, memory, and social cognition.

This course is an elective for psychology majors and does not count as Cognitive Psychology.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

After completing the course, students should be able to:

- 1.2 Describe and analyze major theoretical perspectives and overarching themes of cognitive development.
- 1.3 Describe, apply, and analyze selected content areas within cognitive development.
- 2.1 Identify and explain different research methods used by developmental psychologists.
- 2.3 Locate, accurately summarize, and evaluate bodies of scientific literature in developmental psychology.
- 3.1 Use critical thinking to evaluate popular media related to cognitive development.
- 3.2 Use critical thinking to analyze empirical reports.
- 5.1 Apply developmental concepts, theories, and research findings to issues in everyday life.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS

Textbook

Siegler, Robert S., and Alibali, Martha W. (2005). *Children's Thinking* (4th edition). Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle Hill, NJ.

Course Readings

Additional **required** readings will be assigned. These assignments will be posted on the eLearning site for our class. Articles can be downloaded from the eLearning site, usually in PDF format. Please note: You are responsible for keeping up with new readings assigned in class and on the eLearning site.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Topics	Required Readings	Learning Activities Due
1	Jan 14	Course Overview		
	Jan 16	The Six Big Questions	Ch. 1	
2	Jan 21	NO CLASS – MLK DAY		
	Jan 23	Theory, Measurement, and Ethics		
3	Jan 28			
	Jan 30	Piaget	Ch. 2	
4	Feb 4			Learning Activity 1
	Feb 6	Information Processing Theories	Ch. 3 (p. 65-75)	
5	Feb 11	Sociocultural Theories	Ch. 4	
	Feb 13			
6	Feb 18	EXAM 1		
	Feb 20	Perceiving the World	Ch. 5	
7	Feb 25			
	Feb 27	The Emergence of Language	Ch. 6	
8	Mar 4			
	Mar 6	Memory	Ch. 7	Learning Activity 2
9	Mar 11	NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK		
	Mar 13			
10	Mar 18	Memory (cont.)	Ch. 7	
	Mar 20	Concepts and Categories	Ch. 8	
11	Mar 25			
	Mar 27	EXAM 2		
12	Apr 1	Problem Solving	Ch. 10	
	Apr 3	Intelligence		
13	Apr 8			
	Apr 10	Academic Skills	Ch. 11	
14	Apr 15			Learning Activity 3
	Apr 17	Social Cognition	Ch. 9	
15	Apr 22			
	Apr 24	Course Wrap-Up		
16	Apr 29	EXAM 3		
	May 1	Last Minute Questions		
The Final Exam for our course is scheduled for Friday, May 10th from 11:00 AM – 1:45 PM				

ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATIONS

1. **Exams.** A total of four exams will be administered, including three exams during the semester and a cumulative final exam during finals week. The exams consist of multiple-choice questions and may include some short-answer questions. All exams will last 1 hour and 15 minutes and are worth 100 points each. The top three exam grades will count towards your grade. Therefore, a total of 300 points are available in exams. There will be no make-up exams and no extra credit—see our course policies below. Graded exams will be shared during a class period after the exam, and students will have two weeks following that to make an appointment with the teaching assistant or Dr. Mills if they want to look over their graded exam in more detail. For each exam, you must bring Pearson Scantron #229630 (salmon-colored, landscape orientation) and a #2 pencil.
2. **Learning activities.** You will engage in several learning activities designed to help you reflect on some topics covered in the class in more detail, through reading primary source articles and/or media articles, answering questions and engaging in other relevant activities about the material. The learning activities will be posted on eLearning approximately two weeks before the due dates listed in the syllabus. Students will be asked to submit their learning activity both through a turnitin.com link on eLearning and on paper in class by the due date. There will be 3 learning activities, worth 25 points each. The top two scores will count towards your grade. Therefore, a total of 50 points are available from learning activities. Note the late policy below.
3. **Class attendance and participation.** Students are expected to attend classes regularly, complete the assigned readings before each class, and participate in class discussions. Attendance will be taken each class and could make the difference for students whose grades are borderline (meaning within tenths of a point away from a grade). If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to acquire missing lecture notes, assignments, and announcements from a classmate. Keep in mind that we do NOT post the powerpoint slides for this course online, so it is your responsibility to keep up with the material.

COURSE POLICIES

Grading policy

Grading is based on a set of a priori criteria, based on the percentage points earned out of the total possible 350 points: 90-100% = A, 80-89% = B, 70-79% = C, and 60-69% = D. If you are concerned about your grade, see me as early as possible.

Make-up exams/assignments

Make-up exams and assignments will NOT be offered. Missing one of the exams for any reason (e.g., illness, family problems) will result in a grade of “0” and will count as the one exam you drop.

Late policy

Any learning activities are due at the BEGINNING of the class period. After this, late learning activities will be subject to the loss of 25 PERCENTAGE POINTS FOR EACH DAY LATE for 5 days. Final versions of learning activities will not be accepted more than 5 days after the due date.

Extra credit

There will be no individualized extra credit given for this course.

Course website

New assignments, revisions to the syllabus, announcements, and your grades will be posted on the eLearning site. You can access eLearning through a link on UTD’s main page. You are then responsible for checking this site frequently (at least twice weekly) in order to remain aware of new activities, announcements, etc. Make sure that you have a UTD email address on this account (see info below on UTD email policy). Any email to students enrolled in this class will be sent through UTD email.

Contacting us

You should contact us by email rather than by eLearning or by phone. Please put the course name (Cognitive Development) in the subject line and include your first and last name in the message. You should use a UTD email address for all email correspondence (see the Email use policy below).

Recordings

Please do not make video and/or audio recordings of class sessions without my explicit permission. Recordings of my class made with or without permission may not be distributed in any way. This includes but is not limited to postings on the internet, websites, eLearning, or email.

OTHER INFORMATION

Sorting number

Once the class roster is settled, you will be assigned a SORTING NUMBER corresponding to the position of your name in the grade book. Please write your sorting number very clearly in the top right corner of all assignments and exams. You can make note of your sorting number below.

Sorting number: _____

Grade tracking

If you'd like, you can keep track of the points you have earned in class in this table. To calculate your percentage before the end of the class, divide the number of points you have earned up to that point by the number of points possible.

To calculate your final percentage, circle the top two scores for your learning activities and the top three scores for your exams. Then calculate the number of points you earned for those circled items. Divide that number by 350.

	Learning Activity 1	Learning Activity 2	Learning Activity 3	Exam 1	Exam 2	Exam 3	Final Exam
Points Earned							
Points Possible	25	25	25	100	100	100	100

Classmate contact information

Students are strongly encouraged to obtain contact information from a classmate. This is a good way to form study groups and exchange notes for missed classes.

Classmate's name: _____

Classmate's email address: _____

A few words of advice:

The best way to succeed in this class is to pace your learning. Stay on top of your readings, actively engaging in the material by thinking deeply about each topic, integrating the ideas you've learned in class with what you've read in the book, and testing your knowledge to be sure you understand the material. Take careful notes in class, and implement a plan to actively review them regularly. By doing these activities, you will increase the likelihood of retaining the information in the long term (and for tests). Please see your professor or TA if you wish to discuss study strategies in more detail.

UTD POLICIES

Student Conduct & Discipline

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part 1, Chapter VI, Section 3*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

Email Use

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

Withdrawal from Class

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

Student Grievance Procedures

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be

resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

Incomplete Grade Policy

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of F.

Disability Services

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:
The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22
PO Box 830688
Richardson, Texas 75083-0688
(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for students who are blind. Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example, a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

Religious Holy Days

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment. If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.