



Course **COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT**
PSY3362/CLDP3362
Professor Dr. Candice Mills
Term Fall 2006
Meetings Tuesdays/Thursdays 11:00 – 12:15, CR1.202

PROFESSOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION

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Office Hours Tuesdays 2 – 3 PM or by appointment

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

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

Additional **required** readings will be assigned. These assignments will be posted on the Blackboard site for our class. These readings will be available in one of two ways:

1. Downloaded from the Blackboard site or campus library online resources in PDF or word document format, OR
2. Available on library reserve (2 hr)

Please note: You are responsible for keeping up with new readings assigned in class and on the blackboard site.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Week	Date	Topics	Required Readings
1	Aug 17	Course overview and introduction	
2	Aug 22	Introduction to Cognitive Development	Ch. 1
	Aug 24	Theory, measurement, and ethics	
3	Aug 29		
	Aug 31	Piaget	Ch. 2
4	Sept 5		
	Sept 7	Information processing	Ch. 3 (p. 65-75)
5	Sept 12	Sociocultural theories	Ch. 4
	Sept 14		Article on Blackboard
6	Sept 19	EXAM 1	
	Sept 21	Perceiving the world	Ch. 5
7	Sept 26		
	Sept 28	The emergence of language	Ch. 6
8	Oct 3		
	Oct 5	Memory	Ch. 7
9	Oct 10		
	Oct 12	Concepts and categories	Ch. 8
10	Oct 17	ARTICLE DUE (10/17)	
	Oct 19		
11	Oct 24	EXAM 2	
	Oct 26	Intelligence and problem solving	Article on Blackboard
12	Oct 31		Ch. 10
	Nov 2		
13	Nov 7	Academic skills	Ch. 11
	Nov 9	Social cognition	Ch. 9
14	Nov 14		
	Nov 16	Spillover; PAPER DUE	
15	Nov 21	Putting it all together: Review and summary	
	Nov 23	<i>Thanksgiving Break – No class</i>	
16	Nov 28	EXAM 3	

EXAMS AND ASSIGNMENTS

1. **Exams.** There will be three examinations (9/19, 10/24, and 11/28). All exams will last 1 hour and 15 minutes. The exams are non-cumulative, consisting of a combination of multiple choice, short-answer, and short essay questions. The exams are worth 100 points each. Therefore, a total of 300 points are available in exams.
2. **Paper.** You will write one short (2-3 page) paper. More details will be provided in the next few weeks of the semester. In brief, you will be asked to find an article on children's cognitive development published in a popular media source and to assess whether the thesis is supported or contradicted by research in psychology. You will turn in the article and answer some questions by 10/17 (worth 10 points), and the final paper by 11/16 (worth 50 points). You will lose 10 points for every day the paper is late.
3. **Learning activities.** Throughout the semester, we will be discussing many exciting questions about cognitive development. From time to time, we will spend a portion of a class period thinking about these questions in more detail, working either individually or in small groups. Most of the time, you will not be

given advance notice about these activities, so this is an excellent reason to stay on top of the readings and attend class! You may need to take these assignments home to finish them, and occasionally, these assignments may be posted online to be done entirely outside of class. There will be approximately 5 of these, worth 10 points each, and the 4 best scores will count towards your grade. Therefore, a total of 40 points are available from learning activities. If you miss an activity in class, you may not make it up.

4. **Class attendance and participation.** Students are expected to attend classes regularly, complete the assigned readings before each class, and participate in class discussions. Attendance and participation will be considered and could make the difference for students whose grades are borderline. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to acquire missing lecture notes, assignments, and announcements from a classmate.

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 400 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

Make-up exams will not be given except in the case of verified illness (by a doctor) or death of a member of the immediate family. Even in these circumstances, you should notify me as soon as possible BEFORE the exam. Anyone missing an exam without such approval will be given a "0" for the exam. It is your responsibility to make up the exam within one week of the scheduled exam time. Be prepared—make-up exams are designed to be more difficult than regular exams to compensate for having more study time.

Extra credit

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

Course website

New assignments, revisions to the syllabus, announcements, and your exam grades will be posted on the Blackboard site, <http://blackboard.utdallas.edu/>. When the course site is set up by the computer center, you will be notified via your UTD email address. You are then responsible for creating an account on this site and for checking this site frequently (at least twice weekly) in order to remain aware of new assignments, announcements, etc. You also need to enter 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 this service. If you change your email address during the semester, you need to change your email address on the Blackboard site as well.

A few words of advice:

Stay on top of your readings. Make sure to read the assignments **before** class, and do self-tests after class to make sure you understand the material. Spend some time deeply thinking about each topic, integrating the ideas you've learned in class with what you've read in the book. Take careful notes during class – the powerpoint slides are only meant as an outline and you will be held responsible for all the material covered in the lectures. Do these things and the class will be an enjoyable experience for us all.

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 individuals 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.