
PSY/CLDP 3362 (002) – COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT – Spring 2016

Tuesdays and Thursday 8:30 to 9:45 PM in GR 4.301

****This is a tentative syllabus. The finalized syllabus will be posted during the first week of classes.****

CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor

Meridith Grant, Ph.D.

MGrant@utdallas.edu

Office: TBA

Office hour: Thursdays from 10:00 to 11:00 AM or by
appointment

Graduate Teaching Assistant

TBA

Office:

Office hour:

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 individual differences might we see in how preschoolers and children think about the world? Beyond these 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 and their historical 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.
- 2.5 Use critical thinking to evaluate popular media, scholarly literature, and empirical reports.

Required Textbooks and Materials

Goswami, Usha (2008) Cognitive Development. Psychology Press, University of Cambridge.

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. You are responsible for keeping up with new readings assigned in class and on the eLearning site.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Topics	Readings Due	Assignments Due	
1	Tue, Jan 12	Course Overview			
	Thu, Jan 14	Introduction, Theory, and Measurement			
2	Tue, Jan 19		Pop Article: Toddlers and TV		
	Thu, Jan 21	Infancy: Perception, Attention, & The Physical World	Goswami p 10 – 15; 19-35; 41 – 42; 68-69		
3	Tue, Jan 26		The Social Infant	Goswami Ch 3	
	Thu, Jan 28				
4	Tue, Feb 2	Conceptual Development	Goswami Ch. 4	Assignment 1	
	Thu, Feb 4				
5	Tue, Feb 9	Exam 1			
	Thu, Feb 11				
6	Tue, Feb 16	Language Development	Goswami Ch 5		
	Thu, Feb 18			Assignment 2	
7	Tue, Feb 23	Social Cognition	Goswami Ch 7		
	Thu, Feb 25				
8	Tue, Mar 1	Memory	Goswami Ch 8		
	Thu, Mar 3				
9	Tue, Mar 8	<i>Catch up/Review</i>			
	Thu, Mar 10	Exam 2			
10	Tue, Mar 15	Spring Break			
	Thu, Mar 17				
11	Tue, Mar 22	Intelligence and Beyond	Rosenthal & Jacobson, 1966; Moffitt et al., 2011; Mischel, Shoda, & Rodriguez, 1989		
	Thu, Mar 24				
12	Tue, Mar 29	Academic Skills	Ch 10		
	Thu Mar 31				
13	Tue, April 5	Theories of Cognitive Development & Closing Points	Goswami Ch 11	Assignment 3	
	Thu, April 7				
14	Tue, April 12				
	Thu, April 14				
15	Tue, April 19	Catch Up/Review			
	Thu, April 21	Exam 3			
16	Tue, April 26	<i>Flex Days</i>			Assignment 4
	Thu, April 28				
The optional Final Exam will be during the final exam time for the class.					

**This schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the professor.*

EXAMS AND ASSIGNMENTS

1. **Exams.** A total of four exams will be administered, including three exams throughout the semester and a cumulative final exam during finals week. All exams will last 1 hour and 15 minutes and are worth 100 points. The top three exam grades will count towards your final grade. Therefore, a total of 300 points are available from exams. There will be no make-up exams. Missing an exam for any reason will result in a grade of zero and will serve as the grade you drop. Although students are permitted to view their exams during office hours, the exams will not be returned. *For each exam, you must bring Pearson Scantron #229630 (salmon-colored, landscape orientation) and a #2 pencil.*
2. **Assignments.** You will engage in learning assignments designed to help you reflect on some topics covered in the class in more detail, through reading primary source and/or media articles, and answering questions about the material. These assignments will be posted on eLearning throughout the semester. There will be 4 assignments worth 25 points each. The top three scores will count towards your final grade. Therefore, a total of 75 points are available from assignments.
3. **Class attendance and participation.** You are expected to attend classes regularly, complete the assigned readings, and participate in class discussions. Lectures will include material that is NOT mentioned in other readings and you are responsible for that material on exams. On several occasions throughout the semester, class attendance will be recorded. Students with outstanding participation in the class (e.g., regular attendance, contributions to class discussions, asking and answering questions, in-class visibility and attentiveness) can earn up to 5 bonus points to be factored into their overall points for the class. If you miss a class, you are responsible for missing lecture notes, assignments, and announcements from a classmate, NOT your teaching assistant or professor.

COURSE POLICIES

Grading policy

Final grades will be calculated as follows: 90-100% = A, 80-89% = B, 70-79% = C, 60-69% = D, below 60 = F. If you are concerned about your grade, see the professor as early in the semester as possible.

Requirements	Points possible
Exam 1	100
Exam 2	100
Exam 3	100
Optional Final Exam	100
Assignment 1	25
Assignment 2	25
Assignment 3	25
Assignment 4	25
Grand Total	500
<i>Less lowest exam</i>	<i>-100</i>
<i>Less lowest activity</i>	<i>-25</i>
TOTAL to Calculate Grade	375
Attendance and Participation Bonus Points	+5

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

Assignments are due at the BEGINNING of the class period. Because we will frequently discuss assignments on the day that they are due, LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Extra credit

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

Course website

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 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 phone or eLearning. 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 UTD Email use policy).

Recordings

Please do not make video and/or audio recordings of class sessions without the professor's explicit permission. Recordings of the 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

Classmate contact information

Students are 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: _____

Words of advice

You are responsible for all the material covered in the text AND during lectures. If you miss a class, you are responsible for obtaining notes from a classmate NOT your teaching assistant or professor.

UT DALLAS SYLLABUS POLICES AND PROCEDURES

Please go to the following link for information regarding the University's policies and procedures:
<http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>