
PSY3362/CLDP3362 – COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT – Spring 2017

Mondays and Wednesdays 11:30 – 12:45 PM in GR 4.301

CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor

Dr. Candice Mills

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GR 4.202A or JO 4.208

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Teaching Assistant

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GR 4.314

Office hours: Wed 10:15-11:15 AM

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 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

Textbook

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

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	Readings Due	Learning Activities Due
1	Jan 9	Course Overview		
	Jan 11	Introduction & Measurement		
2	Jan 16	NO CLASS – MLK DAY		
	Jan 18	Introduction & Measurement	TBA	
3	Jan 23	Theories of Cognitive Development	Ch. 11 p. 373-398	
	Jan 25			
4	Jan 30			Learning Activity 1
5	Feb 1	Infancy: The Physical World	p. 10-15, 19-35, 41-2; 68-9	
	Feb 6			
	Feb 8			
6	Feb 13	EXAM 1		
	Feb 15	Infancy: The Social World	Ch. 3	
7	Feb 20			
8	Feb 22	Conceptual Development	Ch. 4	
	Feb 27			
	Mar 1	Language Development	Ch. 5	Learning Activity 2
9	Mar 6			
	Mar 8	Memory	Ch. 8	
10	Mar 13	NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK		
	Mar 15			
11	Mar 20	Memory (cont.)		
	Mar 22			
12	Mar 27	EXAM 2		
	Mar 29	Intelligence & Beyond	TBA	
13	Apr 3			
14	Apr 5	Academic Skills	Ch. 10	
	Apr 10			Learning Activity 3
	Apr 12	Social Cognition	Ch. 7	
15	Apr 17			
	Apr 19	Course Wrap-Up		
16	Apr 24	EXAM 3		
	Apr 26	Last Minute Questions		
The optional Final Exam will be during the final exam time for this class (which is determined by the university).				

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

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 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. Students must submit each activity both ways to receive credit. 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, but it is NOT for an official part of your grade – it is for my records. 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. Plusses and minuses may be given for borderline cases at my discretion.

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 20 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. Please note that if you are concerned about succeeding in this class, you should see me and/or your teaching assistant as soon as possible.

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.

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 to determine your percentage grade.

	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:

You will be responsible for all material covered in the text and during lectures unless otherwise noted. 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.

UT DALLAS SYLLABUS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Please go to the following link for information regarding the University's policies and procedures:

<http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>