

Faculty of Science Course Syllabus  
Department of Psychology and Neuroscience  
PSYO 2090 –Developmental Psychology  
Fall 2015

**Instructor:**

Dr. Alissa Pencer

Office Hours: Thurs 12-2pm

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LSC-Psychology 3349

902-494-4466

**Lectures:** Tues/Thurs 2:35 – 3:55pm    Room: LSC 242

**Course Description:** People change with age. This course examines the changes that occur in humans from conception through adolescence. Biological, social, cognitive, and linguistic aspects of development are considered. Theory, research, and practical implications are integrated throughout the course.

**Course Prerequisites:** PSYO 1011.03 or PSYO 1021.03 or PSYO 1031.03 and PSYO 1012.03 or PSYO 1022.03, or SCIE 1505X/Y.18, SCIE 1515X/Y.36, 1520X/Y.30 or 1540X/Y.27 (with a grade of B- or better)

\*If you are taking this course by special permission pre-requisite override, it is your responsibility to keep up with material.

**Course Objectives:** After you have successfully completed this course, you will be able to:

- Discuss the historical foundations and major theoretical perspectives of child development.
- Explain the major physical, cognitive and socioemotional developments that occur across development from conception up to and including adolescence and recognize typical versus atypical development.
- Discuss the bidirectional interplay of genetic and environmental factors upon children's development.
- Critically appraise and reflect on developmental issues and research findings.

**Course Materials:** Assigned readings to accompany each lecture are listed below in the course outline. All chapters listed refer to *Children and Their Development (2015)* by Kail & Barnfield, Third Canadian Ed. In addition, we will be using the MyPsychLab interactive online resource associated with the textbook.

We will also be using the Top Hat ([www.tophat.com](http://www.tophat.com)) classroom response system in class. You will be able to submit answers to in-class questions using Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, laptops, or through text message.

You can visit [tinyurl.com/TopHatStudentGuide](http://tinyurl.com/TopHatStudentGuide) for the Student Quick Start Guide which outlines how you will register for a Top Hat account, as well as providing a brief overview to get you up and running on the system. An email invitation will also be sent to your school email account (if you don't receive this email, you can register by visiting our course website [tophat.com/e/272791](http://tophat.com/e/272791)).

Top Hat will require a paid subscription, and the standard pricing for the cheapest option is \$24 for 4-months of unlimited access. For a full breakdown of all subscription options available please visit [www.tophat.com/pricing](http://www.tophat.com/pricing).

**Course Assessment -** Your final grade will be made up of the following:

4 out of 6 quizzes <sup>1</sup>	2.5% each	Format – Online on BBL/MyPsychLab 20 multiple-choice questions. Quiz 1: Sept. 17 (Chapters 1-3) Quiz 2: Oct. 1 (Chapters 4-5) Quiz 3: Oct. 15 (Chapters 6-7) Quiz 4: Nov. 5 (Chapters 8-9) Quiz 5: Nov. 19 (Chapters 10-11) Quiz 6: Dec. 3 (Chapters 12-13)
Midterm Exam	30%	Format – 70 multiple choice questions (In Class October 20th)
Final Exam	35%	Format – 85 multiple choice questions (Scheduled by the Registrar During Exam Schedule)

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<sup>1</sup> There will be 6 quizzes and out of the 6 quizzes, your 2 quizzes with the lowest mark will be dropped. THERE WILL BE NO MAKE---UP QUIZZES. A missed quiz is worth zero (0); out of the six quizzes, your lowest 2 marks will be dropped.

MyPsychLab &  
Top Hat  
participation  
activities

15%

Format will be varied. Some activities will be **in class only (using Top Hat)** while others will be posted to BBL/MyPsychLab with 1-2 days to complete. Most activities will be worth 0.5-1% each and will be based partly on participation only (i.e., not correctness of answers).

Virtual Baby  
Assignment

10%

You will raise a “Virtual Baby” starting on November 5<sup>th</sup> and complete 4 short answer questions in total. You will have 1-2 questions due November 10<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and December 8<sup>th</sup> (worth 2.5% each).

Bonus points

2 points

You may earn up to 2 bonus points for participating in experiments in the psychology department. You must register for experiments through the online system and ensure points are assigned to this class.  
[[http://psychology.dal.ca/Research/For\\_Students.php](http://psychology.dal.ca/Research/For_Students.php)]

**Conversion of numerical grades to Final Letter Grades follows the Dalhousie Common Grade Scale**

<b>A+</b> (90-100)	<b>B+</b> (77-79)	<b>C+</b> (65-69)	<b>D</b> (50-54)
<b>A</b> (85-89)	<b>B</b> (73-76)	<b>C</b> (60-64)	<b>F</b> (<50)
<b>A-</b> (80-84)	<b>B-</b> (70-72)	<b>C-</b> (55-59)	

**Course Policies:**

- 1) *Concern re: mark/grade:* If you have a concern with a grade on an exam or assignment, please document your concern(s) in writing, and submit to Dr. Pencer. A meeting will be scheduled to address your concerns. All concerns must be raised within ***three weeks*** of the time when the mark is provided by the course instructor. It is the student’s responsibility to check for accuracy in the recording of marks on Owl (BbLearn).
- 2) *Missed examinations:* For the ***mid-term exam***, it will be the students’ responsibility to contact the instructor, ***prior to the exam***. Documentation as to the reason for missing the exam will be required. The University regulations will be followed for the ***final exam***.
- 3) *Late Assignments:* For all assignments, one point will be deducted for each day late (i.e., if the paper is worth 10 points, then handing it in one day late would mean that the maximum score would be 9 points).

**Tentative Course Outline (topic dates may vary slightly)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading (Kail &amp; Barnfield)</b>
Sept. 10	Introduction to Developmental Psychology; Theories and Themes of Research in Child Development	Ch. 1 (pages 2-22)
Sept. 15, 17	Genetic Bases of Child Development; Prenatal Development	Ch. 2; Ch. 3 (pages 72-95, 109-119)
Sept. 22, 24	Growth and Health	Ch. 4
Sept. 29, Oct 1	Perceptual and Motor Development	Ch. 5
Oct. 6, 8	Theories of Cognitive Development	Ch. 6
Oct. 13, 15	Cognitive Processes and Academic Skills	Ch. 7
Oct. 20	<i>Midterm – Chapters 1-7</i>	
Oct. 22	Intelligence	Ch. 8 (pages 274-295)
Oct. 27, 29	Intelligence; Language and Communication	Ch. 8 (pages 295-302); Ch. 9 (pages 307-329)
Nov. 3, 5	Language and Communication; Emotional Development	Ch. 9 (pages 330-346); Ch. 10 (pages 350-367)
Nov. 10	Emotional Development	Ch. 10 (pages 367-379)
Nov. 17, 19	Understanding Self and Others	Ch. 11
Nov. 24, 26	Moral Understanding and Behaviour	Ch. 12
Dec. 1, 3	Gender and Development; Social Influences	Ch. 13; Ch. 14 (pages 488-517)
Dec. 8	Social Influences and Exam Review	Ch. 14 (pages 517-546)
<i>December exam period</i>	<i>Final Exam</i>	

## **ACCOMMODATION POLICY FOR STUDENTS**

Students may request accommodation as a result of barriers related to disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic protected under Canadian Human Rights legislation. The full text of Dalhousie's Student Accommodation Policy can be accessed here:

[http://www.dal.ca/dept/university\\_secretariat/policies/academic/student-accommodation-policy-wef-sep--1--2014.html](http://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/student-accommodation-policy-wef-sep--1--2014.html)

Students who require accommodation for classroom participation or the writing of tests and exams should make their request to the **Advising and Access Services Centre (AASC)** prior to or at the outset of the regular academic year. More information and the ***Request for Accommodation*** form are available at [www.dal.ca/access](http://www.dal.ca/access).

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Academic integrity, with its embodied values, is seen as a foundation of Dalhousie University. It is the responsibility of all students to be familiar with behaviours and practices associated with academic integrity. Instructors are required to forward any suspected cases of plagiarism or other forms of academic cheating to the Academic Integrity Officer for their Faculty.

The Academic Integrity website (<http://academicintegrity.dal.ca>) provides students and faculty with information on plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty, and has resources to help students succeed honestly. The full text of Dalhousie's ***Policy on Intellectual Honesty*** and ***Faculty Discipline Procedures*** is available here:

[http://www.dal.ca/dept/university\\_secretariat/academic-integrity/academic-policies.html](http://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity/academic-policies.html)

## **STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

Dalhousie University has a student code of conduct, and it is expected that students will adhere to the code during their participation in lectures and other activities associated with this course. In general:

“The University treats students as adults free to organize their own personal lives, behaviour and associations subject only to the law, and to University regulations that are necessary to protect

- the integrity and proper functioning of the academic and non – academic programs and activities of the University or its faculties, schools or departments;
- the peaceful and safe enjoyment of University facilities by other members of the University and the public;
- the freedom of members of the University to participate reasonably in the programs of the University and in activities on the University's premises;
- the property of the University or its members.”

The full text of the code can be found here:

[http://www.dal.ca/dept/university\\_secretariat/policies/student-life/code-of-student-conduct.html](http://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/student-life/code-of-student-conduct.html)

## SERVICES AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS

The following campus services are available to help students develop skills in library research, scientific writing, and effective study habits. The services are available to all Dalhousie students and, unless noted otherwise, are free.

Service	Support Provided	Location	Contact
<b>General Academic Advising</b>	Help with - understanding degree requirements and academic regulations - choosing your major - achieving your educational or career goals - dealing with academic or other difficulties	<b>Killam Library Ground floor</b> Rm G28 <i>Bissett Centre for Academic Success</i>	In person: Killam Library Rm G28 By appointment: - e-mail: <a href="mailto:advising@dal.ca">advising@dal.ca</a> - Phone: (902) 494-3077 - Book online through MyDal
<b>Dalhousie Libraries</b>	Help to find books and articles for assignments Help with citing sources in the text of your paper and preparation of bibliography	<b>Killam Library Ground floor</b>  Librarian offices	In person: Service Point (Ground floor)  By appointment: Identify your subject librarian (URL below) and contact by email or phone to arrange a time: <a href="http://dal.beta.libguides.com/sb.php?subject_id=34328">http://dal.beta.libguides.com/sb.php?subject_id=34328</a>
<b>Studying for Success (SFS)</b>	Help to develop essential study skills through small group workshops or one-on-one coaching sessions  Match to a tutor for help in course-specific content (for a reasonable fee)	<b>Killam Library 3<sup>rd</sup> floor</b>  Coordinator Rm 3104  Study Coaches Rm 3103	To make an appointment: - Visit main office (Killam Library main floor, Rm G28) - Call (902) 494-3077 - email Coordinator at: <a href="mailto:sfs@dal.ca">sfs@dal.ca</a> or - Simply drop in to see us during posted office hours <b>All information can be found on our website: <a href="http://www.dal.ca/sfs">www.dal.ca/sfs</a></b>
<b>Writing Centre</b>	Meet with coach/tutor to discuss writing assignments (e.g., lab report, research paper, thesis, poster) - Learn to integrate source material into your own work appropriately - Learn about disciplinary writing from a peer or staff member in your field	<b>Killam Library Ground floor</b> Learning Commons & Rm G25	To make an appointment: - Visit the Centre (Rm G25) and book an appointment - Call (902) 494-1963 - email <a href="mailto:writingcentre@dal.ca">writingcentre@dal.ca</a> - Book online through MyDal We are open six days a week <b>See our website: <a href="http://writingcentre.dal.ca">writingcentre.dal.ca</a></b>