

## **Course Outline**

### **Developmental Psychology (PSYC 2005 EL 01)**

**Instructor: Dr. B. Bigelow, ABPP**

**September, 2008**

This is a survey course of child development/developmental psychology, covering its history, research models, methods, conceptual bases, and also on individual topics, such as theories, prenatal development, development of the brain, language & learning & cognitive development (e.g., Piaget, Case & information-processing), intelligence, language & communication (e.g., Vygotsky), social & personality development, developmental of the self, sex differences, aggression & morality the family and school & peers.

#### **Text:**

Shaffer, D. R., Wood, E., & Willoughby, T. (2005). *Developmental psychology: childhood and adolescence. Second Canadian Edition.* Toronto: Thompson Nelson.

#### **Study Guide:**

Hensch, S. a. & Wark, G. R (2005). *Study guide* for use with D. R. Shaffer, E. Wood, & T. Willoughby (2005) *Developmental psychology: Childhood and adolescence.* Toronto: Thompson Nelson.

#### **Attendance:**

Attendance for this course is mandatory. A sheet will be passed around each class. University regulations require no more than 20% absenteeism. Of course, illness and family emergencies do happen. In such cases, a doctor's or nurse's note or other documentation (e.g., note from a funeral director) can be provided. Other "reasons" for absence, such as pre-booked vacations or job interviews during an exam or test are not valid reasons to be skipping class. There is a strong correlation between class attendance and grades.

#### **Tests:**

There will be four (4) tests, each worth 12.5% of the final grade. Each test will consist of a combination of true/false; multiple choice and short answer questions. All four tests = 50% of the final grade. Each test covers four chapters out of the book. Any extra material covered by the professor may also be on these tests. These are not difficult tests but you need to study and attend to obtain a decent mark. We have a policy of dropping your lowest mark and replace it by your next higher mark but this option applies only if you actually write the test. Merely missing the test does not apply. (i.e., Sleeping in does not count.)

## **Final Exam:**

The Final Exam at the end of the year will consist of about 120 objective type (T/F & alternative choice) questions. There will be no guessing correction.

## **Assignments:**

You will be asked to complete one assignment for each semester. Each paper must not exceed 10 pages in length, including cover page and *Reference* page. Each assignment is worth 10% of the final grade. Late assignments will be penalized at 10% per day. Please document the date for any late papers. Plagiarism will result in a failing grade. Repeat attempts to plagiarize will result in a course failure. The first assignment is like a lab in many respects. You are to plan an artificial experiment (that is, without any real subjects) by creating some application of Piaget's conservation tasks. You will need to look up one or two published studies and see for yourself how this is done. Of course, you may utilize your text as well for information. The point of the exercise is to help you learn about Piaget's work. The assignment requires that you have a cover page, an 1) introduction, and a 2) method & procedure (plus any references on a separate *Reference* page). You need to have at least 10 good mark-able points to earn your 10%.

## **Grading:**

Test 1: 12.5%

Test 2: 12.5%

Test 3: 12.5%

Test 4: 12.5%

Paper 1: 10%

Paper 2: 10%

Final Exam: 30%

The second term assignment is more open-ended and creative. For ten mark-able points, write a paper on either attachment or peer relationships, such as describing an ideal friendship. You may also write about models of development or write a critique of what is wrong in Piaget's theory. Please clear your title with the prof or with your GTAs.

If you want to do your assignments on another developmental topic, please clear this with your instructor.

Please make use of your Graduate Teaching Assistant. That is what they are there for. Office hours will be made available in class.