

Psychology 451	Cognitive Development	Fall 2015
Instructor:	Dr. Valerie San Juan	Lecture Location: SS 012
Phone:	403-220-2485	Lecture Days/Time: T/R 12:30 – 1:45
Email:	valerie.sanjuan@ucalgary.ca	
Office:	EDT 1428	TA Stephanie Korol
Office Hours:	T/R 2:00 – 3:00 or by appointment	TA email
		Lab 1 M 4:00 – 5:50 (AD 248)
		Lab 2 W 4:00 – 5:50 (AD 248)

Course Description and Goals

Current and classic research in the area of cognitive development is explored. Topics may include sensory and perceptual development, language acquisition, symbolic representation, concept formation, memory, and social-cognitive development. Laboratory projects introduce methodologies used in research with children.

Prerequisites

Psychology 200 & 201 – Principles of Psychology I & II
 Psychology 312 – Experimental Design & Quantitative Methods for Psychology
 Psychology 351 – Developmental Psychology

Required Text

McGonigle-Chalmers, M. (2015). *Understanding Cognitive Development*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publication Inc.

This text is required and is available at the University Bookstore.

Evaluation

Evaluation component	% of Final grade	Date
Midterm Exam	30	October 20th
Final Exam	35	TBD – Dec 11th to 22nd
Lab	35	Throughout (see separate lab outline)

Class Components (65% of grade)

There will be two exams in this course. The first (midterm) exam will be held in class on October 20th and is worth 30% of your final grade. This exam will cover the topics explored up until the midterm. The second (final) exam will be held during the registrar-scheduled exam period, sometime between

December 11th and 22nd. The final exam is worth 35% of your final grade. The final exam will cover the content from the entire course. Both exams will consist of short answer questions and/or essay questions, and will draw upon material from the textbook, required readings, and lecture content. Importantly, topics will not be tested in isolation; rather, thoughtful integration of topics across the course will be required. Ipods, Ipads, computers, books, and notes will not be permitted during exams.

Lab Components (35% of grade)

Lab component	% of Final grade	Date
Article Evaluation	3	Lab 1: Sept 21 Lab 2: Sept 23
Methodology Tutorial	3	Lab 1: Sept 28 Lab 2: Sept 30
Article Presentation	3	Lab 1: Oct 19, Oct 26, or Nov 2 Lab 2: Oct 14, Oct 21, or Oct 28
Ethics Application	3	Lab 1: Nov 23 Lab 2: Nov 25
Research Presentation	3	Lab 1: Nov 16, Nov 23, or Nov 30 Lab 2: Nov 18, Nov 25, or Dec 2
Research Proposal	20	Lab 1 & 2: Dec 8

The lab component of the course is designed to provide students with the opportunity to examine components of research in cognitive development and to apply those components to the creation of a research proposal. Each student will be required to complete individual written assignments and an individual presentation, as summarized above. Students will gain experience with conducting library research, with examining and critiquing a theory in the field, with exploring relevant methodologies, and with writing and presenting a research proposal. A **separate lab outline** will provide thorough description of each of the required lab components.

Lab written assignments (article evaluation, methodology tutorial, ethics application) are due at the **start** of the lab session on the due date – it is the student’s responsibility to ensure that they are attending the correct lab section, as each lab section is associated with slightly different due dates. Lab assignments must be submitted in hard copy.

Late assignments will be subject to a late penalty of 10% per day, including holidays and weekends, to a maximum of 30%. Assignments submitted more than 3 days past their due date will not be accepted, and will be assigned a grade of 0%. If a student does not present their article presentation or their research presentation on the assigned date, a grade of 0% will be assigned, unless a documented, valid University excuse is provided and prior arrangements have been made with the instructor. In the case of an excused absence from a research presentation, the student will be required to present on an alternate lab day or make arrangements to deliver the presentation in an alternate format (e.g., in class, pre-recorded, etc.). The Research Proposal is due on Dec 8th, in hard copy, at the Psychology main office, by 4:30 pm. Late research proposals will not be accepted, and will be assigned a grade of 0%.

Students must achieve a passing grade on both the class and lab components to pass this course.

Department of Psychology Grade Distribution Policy

The distribution of grades in Psychology courses (the percentage of A grades, B grades, etc.) will be similar to the distribution of grades in other courses in the Faculty of Arts. The Department monitors the grade distributions of 200-, 300-, and 400-level courses in the Faculty to ensure that the grade distributions in Psychology courses are comparable. Based on these reviews, students can expect that 1) up to 30% of grades in 200- and 300-level psychology courses will be “A” grades (A+, A, and A-), and 2) up to 40% of grades 400-level psychology courses will be “A” grades.

Department of Psychology Criteria for Letter Grades

Psychology professors use the following criteria when assigning letter grades:

A+ grade: *Exceptional Performance.* An A+ grade indicates near perfect performance on multiple choice and short answer exams. For research papers/essays/course projects/presentations, an A+ grade is awarded for exceptional work deserving of special recognition and is therefore not a common grade.

A, A- Range: *Excellent Performance.* Superior understanding of course material. Written work is very strong in terms of critical and original thinking, content, organization, and the expression of ideas, and demonstrates student’s thorough knowledge of subject matter.

B Range: *Good Performance.* Above average understanding of course material. Written work shows evidence of critical thinking and attention to organization and editing but could be improved in form and/or content.

C Range: *Satisfactory Performance.* Adequate understanding of course material. Knowledge of basic concepts and terminology is demonstrated. Written work is satisfactory and meets essential requirements but could be improved significantly in form and content. Note: All prerequisites for courses offered by the Faculty of Arts must be met with a minimum grade of C-.

D range: *Marginally meets standards.* Minimal understanding of subject matter. Written work is marginally acceptable and meets basic requirements but requires substantial improvements in form and content. Student has not mastered course material at a level sufficient for advancement into more senior courses in the same or related subjects.

F grade: *Course standards not met.* Inadequate understanding of subject matter. Written work does not meet basic requirements. Student has not demonstrated knowledge of course material at a level sufficient for course credit.

Grading Scale

A+	96-100%	B+	80-84%	C+	67-71%	D+	54-58%
A	90-95%	B	76-79%	C	63-66%	D	50-53%
A-	85-89%	B-	72-75%	C-	59-62%	F	0-49%

As stated in the University Calendar, it is at the instructor’s discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between two letter grades.

In this course there will be no rounding up of final grades, especially in light of the opportunities students have to increase their final grade via research participation.

Tentative Lecture Schedule

Date	Topic	Required Reading
T Sep 8	Course Intro & Overview <i>(Fall term lectures begin)</i>	
R Sep 10	Theories & Methods in Cognitive Development	Chapter 1
T Sep 15	Perceptual Development During the First Year	Chapters 2 & 3
R Sep 17		
T Sep 22	Sensorimotor Development in Infancy: Gaining Control of the Physical Environment	Chapter 4
R Sep 24		
T Sep 29	Sensorimotor Development in Infancy: The Elements of Social Interaction	Chapter 5
R Oct 1		
T Oct 6	The Emergence of Speech	Chapter 6
R Oct 8		
T Oct 13	The Acquisition of Word Meaning and Phrase Speech	Chapter 7
R Oct 15		
T Oct 20	Midterm (Exam will cover all lecture material up until this point, including Chapters 1 – 7 in the textbook).	
R Oct 22	The Emergence of Sentence Structure	Chapter 8
T Oct 27	Understanding and Reasoning about Categories	Chapter 13
R Oct 29		
T Nov 3	Representing Other Minds and the Development of Symbolic Thought	Chapter 15
R Nov 5		
T Nov 10	Perceptual Development and Recognition Memory	Chapter 11
R Nov 12	Reading Days. No lectures.	
T Nov 17	Memory for Scenes, Routes and Events	Chapter 12
R Nov 19		
T Nov 24	Understanding and Reasoning about Time and Space	Chapter 14
R Nov 26		
T Dec 1	Symbolic Reasoning and Logicomathematical Thinking	Chapter 16
R Dec 3		
T Dec 8	Summary and Review <i>(Fall Term Lectures End. Last day to withdraw with permission from Fall Term half courses)</i>	
Dec 11-22	Fall Term Final Exam Period (Exam may include lecture and reading material covered throughout the semester but will primarily focus on lectures and readings from the second half).	

*Lecture schedule is subject to change.

Reappraisal of Grades

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (e.g., term paper, essay, test) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within 15 days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class; no reappraisal of term work is permitted after the 15 days. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next 15 days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same. If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within 15 days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct.

Academic Accommodation

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services ; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf .

Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of this course.

Absence From A Test/Exam

Makeup tests/exams are **NOT** an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test/exam for health reasons; the student will be required to pay any cost associated with this Statement. Students who miss a test/exam have up to 48 hours to contact the instructor and to schedule a makeup test/exam. Students who do not schedule a makeup test/exam with the instructor within this 48-hour period forfeit the right to a makeup test/exam. At the instructor's discretion, a makeup test/exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled

test/exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test/exam during exam make-up hours provided by the department <http://psychology.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/exam-and-course-information#mues>. If a student cannot make or write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred_final. Under no circumstances will this be accommodated by the department.

Travel During Exams

Consistent with University regulations, students are expected to be available to write scheduled exams at any time during the official December and April examination periods. Requests to write a make-up exam because of conflicting travel plans (e.g., flight bookings) will NOT be considered by the department. Students are advised to wait until the final examination schedule is posted before making any travel arrangements. If a student cannot make write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred_final. Under no circumstances will this be accommodated by the department.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act

The FOIP legislation disallows the practice of having student's retrieve tests and assignments from a public place. Therefore, tests and assignments may be returned to students during class/lab, or during office hours, or via the Department Office (Admin 255), or will be made available only for viewing during exam review sessions scheduled by the Department. Tests and assignments will be shredded after one year. Instructors should take care to not link students' names with their grades, UCIDs, or other FOIP-sensitive information.

Course Credits for Research Participation (Max 2% of final grade)

Students in most psychology courses are eligible to participate in Departmentally approved research and earn credits toward their final grades. **A maximum of two credits (2%) per course, including this course, may be applied to the student's final grade. Students earn 0.5% (0.5 credits) for each full 30 minutes of participation.** The demand for timeslots may exceed the supply in a given term. Thus, students are not guaranteed that there will be enough studies available to them to meet their credit requirements. Students should seek studies early in the term and should frequently check for open timeslots. Students can create an account and participate in Departmentally approved research studies at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>. The last day to participate in studies and to assign or reassign earned credits to courses is **Dec 8, 2015**

Evacuation Assembly Point

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>
Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

Student Organizations

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). They are located in Administration 170 and may be contacted at 403-220-5567.

Student Union VP Academic: Phone: 403-220-3911

suypaca@ucalgary.ca

Student Union Faculty Rep.: Phone: 403-220-3913

socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Student Ombudsman's Office

The Office of the Student Ombudsmen provides independent, impartial and confidential support for students who require assistance and advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. The office can be reached at 403-220-6420 or ombuds@ucalgary.ca (<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>).

Safewalk

The safewalk program provides volunteers to walk students safely to their destination anywhere on campus. This service is free and available 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year.
Call 403-220-5333.

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund is September 18, 2015**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **September 21, 2015**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **December 8, 2015**.