



**PSYC 459 (L02)**

**Developmental Psychopathology**

**Winter 2014**

|                      |   |                           |                   |
|----------------------|---|---------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Instructor:</b>   | Charmaine Thomas, M.Sc., Ph.D.<br>Candidate | <b>Lecture Location:</b>  | SS 541            |
| <b>Phone:</b>        | 403-462-2427                                | <b>Lecture Days/Time:</b> | M/W/F 10:00-10:50 |
| <b>Email:</b>        | charmaine.thomas@ucalgary.ca                |                           |                   |
| <b>Office:</b>       | A08C  |                           |                   |
| <b>Office Hours:</b> | By appointment                              |                           |                   |

**Course Description and Goals**

This course examines the development of psychopathology during childhood and adolescence, with an emphasis on the characteristics of disorders, their determinants, and outcomes. This exploration will include ways in which psychological disorders are unique in childhood and adolescence, with an emphasis on current theories and research, and recent trends in evidence-based interventions and the prevention of psychopathology. Ethical, practical, and conceptual issues will also be discussed, highlighting the interaction between biological, psychological, and social factors that influence developmental trajectories. Class discussions will reflect the importance of considering developmental continuity and discontinuity in the context of each child's individual circumstances, as well as the need to adopt an integrative approach that incorporates the strengths and resiliency of each child and his or her family.

By the end of this course, it is expected that students will be able to think critically about conceptual issues related to developmental psychopathology, integrating knowledge about genetic, environmental, and cultural factors that influence disorders of childhood and adolescence. Students will be required to master the information presented in the required text, supplemental readings, and lecture material; however, this course will emphasize the interpretation, integration, and synthesis of course content. As such, course performance will be largely based on tasks that require students to demonstrate both an understanding of the course material as well as an ability to integrate this information in an applied manner.

**Prerequisites**

PSYC 205 or PSYC 200 and 201 – Principles of Psychology (I & II)

PSYC 312 – Experimental Design and Quantitative Methods

PSYC 351 – Development Psychology

PSYC 385 – Abnormal Psychology

**Required Text**

Mash, E. J., & Wolfe, D. A. (2010). *Abnormal child psychology* (5th ed.). Belmont, CA:

Wadsworth/Cengage Publishing. [Available in University Bookstore; also available for rental as a E-text]

## Evaluation

Final grades will be based on three midterm exams and one research-based term paper.

**Exams:** All exams will be comprised of two components:

- 1) **Multiple-choice exam component**, to be completed during class time (see dates below); and
- 2) **Take-home exam component**, comprising short-answer and essay questions. The take-home component will be distributed during the scheduled in-class, multiple-choice exam, and will be due the following week at the beginning of class (see dates below). Late exams will not be accepted except in exceptional circumstances that qualify as an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required, and a new due date will be negotiated at the instructor's discretion.

|                               |  |   |     |
|-------------------------------|--|---|-----|
| <b><u>Midterm Exam #1</u></b> | <b>Jan 27, 2014</b> in-class component (10%)<br><b>Feb 3, 2014</b> take home component due at the beginning of class (10%).  | Ch. 1, 2, 3 & 4 and related lecture material, readings, and videos    | 20% |
| <b><u>Midterm Exam #2</u></b> | <b>March 3, 2014</b> in-class multiple-choice exam component (10%)<br><b>March 10, 2014</b> take home component due at the beginning of class (15%).   | Ch. 14, 5, 6, & 7 and related lecture material, readings, and videos  | 25% |
| <b><u>Midterm Exam #3</u></b> | <b>March 31, 2014</b> in-class multiple-choice exam (10%)<br><b>April 7, 2014</b> take home component due at the beginning of class (15%)  | Ch. 8, 9, 10, & 11 and related lecture material, readings, and videos | 25% |
| <b><u>Term paper</u></b>      | <b>Due April 14, 2014</b><br>You are required to write a research paper focused on a specific issue or controversy in developmental psychopathology. Your paper should be 15-20 pages in length (double-spaced) and follow APA formatting. Further details will be provided in class and posted on Blackboard. |   | 30% |

You must submit a hard copy of your paper in class on the date specified. If you are unable to attend class that day, you must **BOTH** email me a copy of your paper by 10:00 a.m. on April 14, 2014 **AND** ensure a hardcopy is delivered to the main office by end of day, to be date stamped and placed in my mailbox. Late papers will be deducted 10% per day (including weekends), up to a maximum of 30% (3 days). Term papers will no longer be accepted after this point.

## 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.

To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (e.g., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90% = A but 89.4% will be rounded down to 89% = A-).

### Tentative Lecture Schedule

Ideally in table format with date of class, topics to be covered, and chapters/readings to be read. Due dates for tests/exams and assignments should be included in this schedule as well.

| Date      | Topic/Activity/Readings/Due Date (revise and add columns & rows as necessary)   |
|-----------|---|
| W Jan 8   | Winter term lectures begin<br>Chapter 1: Introduction   |
| F Jan 10  | Chapter 1: Introduction   |
| M Jan 13  | Chapter 1: Introduction   |
| W Jan 15  | Chapter 2: Theories and Causes  |
| F Jan 17  | Chapter 2: Theories and Causes<br>Last day to drop Winter Term half-courses.  |
| M Jan 20  | Chapter 3/4: Research & Assessment, Diagnosis, and Treatment<br>Last day to add or swap Winter Term half courses.<br>Last day for change of registration from audit to credit or credit to audit. |
| W Jan 22  | Chapter 3/4: Research & Assessment, Diagnosis, and Treatment  |
| F Jan 24  | Chapter 3/4: Research & Assessment, Diagnosis, and Treatment<br>Fee payment deadline for Winter Term fees.  |
| M Jan 27  | <b>MIDTERM EXAM 1 (multiple choice component)</b>   |
| W Jan 29  | Chapter 14: Child Maltreatment and Non-accidental Trauma  |
| F Jan 31  | Chapter 14: Child Maltreatment and Non-accidental Trauma  |
| M Feb 3   | Chapter 5: Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)<br><b>MIDTERM EXAM 1 TAKE-HOME COMPONENT DUE</b>   |
| W Feb 5   | Chapter 5: Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)  |
| F Feb 7   | Chapter 5: Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)  |
| M Feb 10  | Chapter 6: Conduct Problems   |
| W Feb 12  | Chapter 6: Conduct Problems   |
| F Feb 14  | Chapter 6: Conduct Problem  |
| Feb 16-23 | Reading Week. No lectures. University open (except Family Day).   |
| M Feb 17  | Alberta Family Day, University closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.  |
| M Feb 24  | Chapter 7: Anxiety Disorders  |
| W Feb 26  | Chapter 7: Anxiety Disorders  |
| F Feb 28  | Chapter 7: Anxiety Disorders  |
| M Mar 3   | <b>MIDTERM EXAM 2 (multiple choice component)</b>   |
| W Mar 5   | Chapter 8: Mood Disorders   |
| F Mar 7   | Chapter 8: Mood Disorders   |
| M Mar 10  | Chapter 8: Mood Disorders<br><b>MIDTERM EXAM 2 TAKE-HOME COMPONENT DUE</b>  |
| W Mar 12  | Chapter 9: Intellectual Disability (Mental Retardation)   |
| F Mar 14  | Chapter 9: Intellectual Disability (Mental Retardation)   |
| M Mar 17  | Chapter 10: Autism Spectrum Disorders and Childhood-Onset Schizophrenia   |
| W Mar 19  | Chapter 10: Autism Spectrum Disorders and Childhood-Onset Schizophrenia   |
| F Mar 21  | Chapter 10: Autism Spectrum Disorders and Childhood-Onset Schizophrenia   |

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| M Mar 24  | Chapter 11: Communication and Learning Disorders   |
| W Mar 26  | Chapter 11: Communication and Learning Disorders   |
| F Mar 28  | Chapter 11: Communication and Learning Disorders   |
| M Mar 31  | <b>MIDTERM EXAM 3 (multiple choice component)</b>  |
| W Apr 2   | Chapter 12: Health-Related and Substance Use Disorders   |
| F Apr 4   | Chapter 12: Health-Related and Substance Use Disorders   |
| M Apr 7   | Chapter 13: Eating Disorders and Related Conditions<br><b>MIDTERM EXAM 3 TAKE-HOME COMPONENT DUE</b>                                       |
| W Apr 9   | Chapter 13: Eating Disorders and Related Conditions  |
| F Apr 11  | Chapter 13: Eating Disorders and Related Conditions  |
| M Apr 14  | <b>Term paper due</b><br>Course wrap-up<br>Winter Term lectures end<br>Last day to withdraw from full courses and Winter Term half courses |
| Apr 19-29 | Winter Term Final Examinations   |

### 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

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. 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 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.

### **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 except under exceptional circumstances. Students are advised to wait until the final examination schedule is posted before making any travel arrangements.

### **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 **April 14, 2014**.

### **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](mailto:suypaca@ucalgary.ca)

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

[socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto: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](mailto: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 **January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014**.