

**Developmental Psychology Laboratory**

**Instructor: Mark A. Schmuckler**

**Office: S-515**

**Office Hours: Thursday, 10:00 - 12:00, or by appointment**

**Text: Miller, S.A. (1987). Developmental research methods. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall**

**Course Meeting Time and Place: Tuesday, 9 - 11, H408**

**Overview of the course**

The purpose of PSYC26S is to acquaint you with research in psychology in general, and with the methodology of developmental psychology in particular. You will do this in part by writing, but primarily by collecting data and by writing reports describing your research. The course is demanding, but it should also be enjoyable -- formulating research questions, collecting and analyzing data, and writing and interpreting your results are the most exciting part of experimental psychology. Developmental psychology focuses on the process of change within and across different phases of the life-span. Reflecting the broad range of topics in this area, there are diverse research methods. This course will cover a representative sample of some of these approaches, as well as consideration of issues in research design as it relates to developmental issues.

**Course Requirements**

There are several course requirements. There will be a number of short projects/reports that you must complete. These projects will involve writing exercises, as well as practice methodology sections for experimental papers. The specific length of each of these projects will be discussed in class. You will also be required to produce a full-length (about 15 - 20 pages), journal style report for one of these projects. In addition to collecting data and writing reports, there is a textbook to be mastered, as well as lecture material. You will be expected to know this material, and will be tested on this work in the form of a midterm and final exam, each covering approximately half of the book. The due dates and relative weightings of these assignments are listed below:

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
Midterm Exam	25%	Feb. 7 (in class)
Project 1	10%	Feb. 21
Project 2	10%	Mar. 21
Experimental Report	30%	Apr. 4
Final Exam	25%	Exam Period

-- All assignments are due by 5:00 PM, on the day listed. Penalty for unjustified late assignment: is 1 mark per day (1 day late, a B becomes a B-, etc.).

### General Topics and Readings

The topics to be discussed in this class will be covered in the following order:

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Chapter</u>
The Nature of Science	Ch. 1
Research Methods	Ch. 2-4
Research Ethics	Ch. 11
Cognitive Development	Ch. 7
Social Development	Ch. 8
Using Computers	---
Analyzing Data	Ch. 10
Scientific Communication	Ch. 12
Infancy	Ch. 6
Aging	Ch. 9