PSYC26F **Fall 1998**

Developmental Psychology Laboratory

Instructor: *Mark A. Schmuckler*
Office: *S-515*
Office Hours: *Thursday, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, or by appointment*

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Course Hours: Tuesday*: 10-12 AM, R-4224*

Text: Miller, S.A. (1987). *Developmental research methods, 2nd Edition* Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, Inc.

Overview of Course

The purpose of PSYC26 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 analysing data, and writing and interpreting your results are among the most exciting parts of experimental psychology. Developmental psychology focuses on the process of change within and across the difference 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 consider issues in research design as it relates to developmental concerns.

Course Requirements

The are several course requirements. There will be a number of short projects/reports that you must complete. These projects will involves writing exercises, such as practice methodology sections for experimental papers, as well as computer projects focusing on data analysis. The specific length of each of these projects will be discussed in class. You will also be require 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 learned, as well as lecture material to be mastered. You will be expected to know this material, and to demonstrate your knowledge in the form of a midterm and final exam. Each of these exams will cover approximately half of the book. The due dates and relative weighting of these assignments are listed below:

Course Assignments and Due Dates

Assignment	*Weight*	*Due Date*
Assignment #1	12.5 %	Oct. 13
Midterm Exam	25 %	Oct. 27
Assignment #2	12.5 %	Nov. 17
Experimental Report	25 %	Dec. 8 (last class)
Final Exam	25 %	Exam Period

All assignments are due by 12:00 PM on the day listed. Penalty for unjustified late assignment: 1 mark per day (i.e., 1 day late, a B becomes a B-, and so on).

General Topics and Readings

Below is an APPROXIMATE outline of the readings and topics to be covered in class. More specific information concerning each week's material will be given as the class progresses.

Day	*Topic*	*Reading*
Sep. 15	Introduction to class	----
Sep. 22	The nature of science	Ch. 1
Sep. 29	Scientific communication	Ch. 12
Oct. 6	Research methods	Ch. 2-5
Oct. 13	Research methods, con't	Ch. 2-5
Oct. 20	Research methods, con't	Ch. 2-5
Oct. 27	**Midterm exam** (in class)	----
Nov. 3	Analysing data	Ch. 10
Nov. 10	Research ethics	Ch. 11
Nov. 17	Infancy	Ch. 6
Nov. 24	Cognitive development	Ch. 7
Dec. 1	Social development	Ch. 8
Dec. 8	Aging	Ch. 9