

Developmental Psychology Laboratory

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Teaching Assistant: *Lisa Collimore*

Office: *S-229B*

Office Hours: *Fridays, 12:00 – 2:00 PM*

Course Hours: *Friday, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, BV-359*

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

There are several course requirements. First, will be two short projects that you must complete. The length of these projects, and what they entail, will be discussed later in class. You will also be required to actually conduct an experiment in child development (making use of the day care facility at Scarborough, and to produce a full-length experimental report for this experiment. Finally, in addition to collecting data and writing a report, 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. A rough outline of the lecture topics, as well as the due dates and relative weighting of these assignments, is given below.

General Topics, Readings, Course Assignments, and Due Dates

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.

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Worth</u>
Jan. 5	Introduction to Class	---		
Jan. 12	The Nature of Science	Ch. 1		
Jan. 19	Scientific Communication	Ch. 9		
Jan. 26	Research Methods I	Ch. 2 – 6		
Feb. 2	Research Methods II	Ch. 2 – 6	Assignment # 1	10%
Feb. 9	Research Methods III	Ch. 2 – 6		
Feb. 16		Reading Week		
Feb. 23	Exam	Ch. 1 – 6, 9	Midterm	25%
Mar. 2	Analyzing Data	Ch. 7		
Mar. 9	Computer Analysis of Data			
Mar. 16	Computer Analysis of Data			
Mar. 23	Research Ethics	Ch. 8	Assignment # 2	10%
Mar. 30	Topics in development	Ch. 10, 11, 12	Final Report	30%
	Exam	Ch. 7, 8, 10-12	Final	25%

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).