

Developmental Psychology Laboratory

Instructor: *Mark A. Schmuckler*
Office: *AA437*
Office Hours: *Tuesday, 12:00 – 1:00 PM, or by appointment*
Email: [*marksch@utsc.utoronto.ca*](mailto:marksch@utsc.utoronto.ca)

Course Hours: *Monday, 7:00 – 9:00 PM*
Course Location: *SW316*

Teaching Assistant: *Carly Prusky*
Office: *Portable 103 – room 111*
Office Hours: *by appointment*
Email: [*carly.prusky@mail.utoronto.ca*](mailto:carly.prusky@mail.utoronto.ca)

Text: Miller, S.A. (2013). *Developmental research methods*, 4th 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 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, there are a series of short assignments 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 observational coding experiment in child development (making use of the day care facility at Scarborough), and to write an 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>Value</u>
Jan. 2	Introduction to Class	---		
Jan. 9	Scientific Communication	Ch. 11		
Jan. 16	The Nature of Science	Ch. 1		
Jan. 23	Research Methods I	Ch. 2 – 8	Assignment # 1 Due	10%
Jan. 30	Research Methods II	Ch. 2 – 8		
Feb. 6	Term Exam 1			20%
Feb. 13	Infancy	Ch. 12		
Feb. 20	Reading Week			
Feb. 27	Cognitive Development	Ch. 13	Assignment # 2 Due	12.5%
Mar. 6	Social Development	Ch. 14		
Mar. 13	Term Exam 2			20%
Mar. 20	Practical Statistics			
Mar. 27	Practical Statistics		Assignment # 3 Due	12.5%
T. B. A.	Take Home Exam		Final Paper Due	25%

Deadlines for assignments will be posted when the assignment is made available. Penalty for unjustified late assignment: 1 mark per day (i.e., 1 day late, a B becomes a B-, and so on).