

**Department of Psychology
PSYC 2500H-W Child Development
Winter 2012**

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Psychology Dept.	LHS C104, 705-748-1011 ext. 7535		

Course Description: This is a survey course dealing with the theoretical and empirical research bases of child development and child psychology as a scientific discipline. Topics covered include theories of development, research methods, biological foundations, basic psychological processes in children, cognitive and intellectual development, social and emotional development and family and peer influences on children's behaviour.

Course Prerequisite: C- (60%) or higher in PSYC 1010Y (101) or in PSYC 1020H (102H) and 1030H (103H). Excludes PSYC 280 and 281H.

Course Format: This is a Distance Education (DE) course, and as such does not have formal class meeting times. However, there are specific due dates for the various online discussion postings (participation), assignments, quizzes and a accumulative final exam (see below). The due dates for these evaluation components are firm, and the course instructor will not entertain extensions. You will be required to logon to the course website at least three times a week for the duration of the course to complete assignments and posting requirements.

Course MyLearning System (MLS) link:
<https://webct.trentu.ca/webct/urw/lc9140001.tp0/cobaltMainFrame.dowebct>

Required Readings: Shaffer, D.R., Kipp, K., Wood, E., & Willoughby, T. (2009). *Developmental psychology: Childhood and adolescence* (3rd Canadian ed.). Scarborough, ON: Nelson/Thomson.

American Psychological Association (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed). Washington, DC: Author.

Evaluation	1) Quizzes	20%	8 quizzes (7.5 by March 9)
	2) Participation in Discussions	15%	Weekly (see p. 2 and p. 5)
	3) Assignment 1 (written part)	10%	Two deadlines (February 3 or 10)
	4) Assignment 2 (option A, B, or C)	15%	15% by March 9
	5) Cumulative Final Exam	40%	In person exam scheduled during the April exam period

It is the responsibility of each student to read and accept the due dates outlined on the course syllabi.

By Feb. 27th, 2012, students will have 25% of their grade

Quiz week 2, 2%, Quiz week 3 3%, Written assignment week 3 5%, Quiz week 3 3%, Discussion week 3 2%, Discussion week 4-52%, Quiz week 6 3%, Written assignment week 7 5%

Learning Outcomes

Students successfully completing this course will:

1. Be able to comprehend and evaluate theories of child development;
2. Be able to describe and interpret how children develop over time physically, cognitively and socially;
3. Be able to use theories and research to understand real-life situations;
4. Student will demonstrate their knowledge and skills on a midterm test, on a final exam, and in written lab reports

Explanation of Assignments

- 1) Quizzes (20%): There will be a quiz at the end of each “Module” of this course (15 randomly generated multiple choice questions) . Each quiz will test the factual knowledge of the material learned in that Module (e.g., Quiz 2 will assess knowledge of the material in Chapter one of the text as well as the other materials examined in that first Module). The quizzes will be available Sunday at noon, and will be removed Monday at midnight (Trent time!). Once the quiz has started, you have 15 minutes to complete it. There is no way to pause the quiz and only one attempt can be made for quizzes 2 to 8 (the library skills quiz will be set up a bit differently). **BE PREPARED!** Summary notes of the readings are strongly recommended. If you miss a quiz, you will forfeit the mark for that specific quiz (**NO EXCEPTIONS**). Your final grade for this section will include your grade on the library skills quiz (2%) and the best 6 scores out of 7 module quizzes (worth 3% each).
- 2) Participation in Discussions (15%): Students will discuss provided topics on the discussion board weekly. 1 mark will be given for initiating a **NEW** discussion feed, and 2 marks will be given for **TWO RESPONSES** to discussion feeds initiated by other people in the course. Your two responses cannot be within the same discussion feed, they must be in two different ones. Marks will be allocated based on your input. Simply responding “I agree” will not get you **ANY** marks. You must put forth a meaningful and **NEW** discussion feed or response in order to receive each participation mark. For example, a meaningful response would relate the discussion topic to another aspect of the course, such as a theory or topic from the readings. Each student can receive a maximum of 3 marks per discussion. You may lose marks if you dominate the discussion. The discussions linked to Assignment 1 are required (worth 3% each and described below in Assignment 1) and you may choose to participate in the one of several discussions for modules 5-8 (up to 3% per discussion for a total of 15%)
- 3) Assignment 1 (quiz worth 2%, written component worth 10%, discussion component 6%).

This first assignment is mandatory for everyone and there are 5 steps to this assignment which are explained in more detail below.

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|----------------------------|----|
| 1. Library skills quiz | 2% |
| 2. Article summary | 5% |
| 3. First group discussion | 3% |
| 4. Second group discussion | 3% |
| 5. Reflection paper | 5% |

Step 1

You will be randomly put on one side of this debate – *Does nature or nurture influence children’s health in the first few years of life*. Please check column called “Assignment one group” in your grade book for your assigned side – you can find your grade book in your myLearningSystem.

Next go to [myTrent](#), login, and click on myLearningSystem to access your Library Skills tutorial and quiz. It will be a separate course, with the title of "Library Skills for Child Development – DE course". Your myLearningSystem course will have information about what you need to do to complete the tutorial. There will be a quiz – this quiz is required and worth 2% of the possible 20% for the quizzes – this quiz is MANDATORY – if you do not complete it, you will receive a zero for this quiz and there will be no opportunity to make up this grade. You will have 3 chances to write this quiz and your best grade will count toward the 2%.

Step 2

When you have finished the library skills workshop and quiz, you will be ready to search for a peer-reviewed journal article to support your side of the argument. When you have this article, write a summary of the article in 250 words or less. You must use your own words – DO NOT use quotes at all (i.e., do not copy from the article) – and you must write using language understandable by a lay-person (When I write for a lay-person, I imagine that I am writing a summary for my grandmother – you may also find this helpful.) Please review the Academic Integrity policy at http://www.trentu.ca/deanundergraduate/integrity_students.php. It is your responsibility to ensure that your work is properly referenced.

Your article summary is due by Friday January 27th at 4 pm. You will submit your summary to the assignment dropbox. Your article summary is worth 5%. This summary is MANDATORY – if you do not complete it, you will receive a zero for this summary and there will be no opportunity to make up this grade.

Step 3

Next, during week 3, you will be assigned to a group of five. Each person in the group will have found an article to support the same side (all nature or all nurture). In a group discussion(s), you will be required develop a list of counter arguments against your side (i.e., what do you think the other side might say to support their side) and have a detailed discussion of how your articles counter those anticipated arguments. Your contributions to this discussion will be graded – this discussion is required and worth 2% of the possible 20% for discussions. This discussion is MANDATORY – if you do not complete it, you will receive a zero for this discussion and there will be no opportunity to make up this grade. Note that all group work must take place in your MyLearningSystem discussion groups and YOU must participate in your group to receive the grade – if you do not participate in this discussion group, you will not receive your grade.

Step 4

Next, during week 4, your group will be paired up with a group of 5 on the other side and you will have the opportunity to discuss each side as well as your arguments and counter arguments. Your contributions to this discussion will be graded – this discussion is required and worth 2% of the possible 20% for discussions. This discussion is also MANDATORY – if you do not complete it, you will receive a zero for this discussion and there will be no opportunity to make up this grade. Note that all group work must take place in your MyLearningSystem discussion groups and YOU must participate in your group to receive the grade – if you do not participate in this discussion group, you will not receive your grade.

Step 5

Your final assignment for this module is also required – if you do not complete it, you will receive a score of zero and there will be no opportunity to make up this grade. In 400 words or less, we would like to reflect on what you learned in the process. Please focus on what you learned about searching for and summarizing articles, developing arguments and counter-arguments and/or expressing your opinions in a group process. Do not write about what you learned about the topic of nature versus nurture (save that for the quizzes and exams). Your reflection paper is worth 5%. This reflection paper is MANDATORY – if you do not complete it, you will receive a zero for this paper and there will be no opportunity to make up this grade.

Once again, it is important to note that the assignments and discussions above are required for everyone. If you do not complete one of the above assignments in the time permitted, you will receive a score of zero on that component and you will not be able to continue with the next step—therefore receiving a score of zero on the subsequent components.

To review, the first assignment has the following components

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|----------------------------|----|
| 1. Library skills quiz | 2% |
| 2. Article summary | 5% |
| 3. First group discussion | 3% |
| 4. Second group discussion | 3% |
| 5. Reflection paper | 5% |

Following assignment 1, you will have the opportunity to participate in four discussions (Modules 5, 6, 7 and 8; for a potential total of 9 of the 15%) and one of three assignments (worth 15%)

4) Assignment 2 (15%). In this assignment, you are asked to write a paper outlining research supporting the pro side of a controversial issue and research supporting the con side of the same controversial issue. Your paper will include research from at least 6 articles (minimum 3 on each side) and be 8-10 pages in length (8.5 X 11 inch paper, 1 inch margins, 12 point font). Papers longer than 10 pages will be penalized. If you miss a due date for Option A and/or Option B, you will not be permitted to hand in a paper on that topic. If you miss the due date for Option C, you will not be permitted to hand in a paper on that topic, however, with adequate documentation an extension may be granted – You will be given a new topic to research.

Option A Should parents be allowed to raise their children in a gender neutral environment?

Option B Is spanking a useful discipline technique?

Option C What are the effects of media (e.g., TV, internet, movies) on child development?

Each of these topics will also be assigned as a discussion topic (see schedule). Use this opportunity to start thinking about your paper but you must use your own words in your paper – copying from the discussion posts of another student is plagiarism and will be severely penalized (see www.trentu.ca/academicintegrity)

5). Final Exam (40%): The final exam will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions and will cover all of the material in the course. The final exam will be scheduled by the Registrar's office and will be held on both campuses (Oshawa & Peterborough). The actual date/time and location are to be determined. The final exam is "live" – that is, it is a face-to-face exam requiring students to attend either the Oshawa or Peterborough campus (N.B. There are exceptions to this rule – see the welcoming letter – this will explain "alternatives") Materials to bring to the final exam: (a) two sharp HB pencils; (b)

eraser; and (c) Student ID card or proof of enrolment and other identification (e.g., Driver License). The final exam will include multiple choice questions that require students to apply the material and/or demonstrate a superior understanding of the concepts.

Course Policy on
Late Submissions
Course Policy on
attendance in
class/labs

Due dates for quizzes and papers are CLEARLY outlined in the schedule below. Late submissions will receive a score of zero.

You will be required to logon to the course website at least three times a week for the duration of the course to complete assignments and posting requirements. The instructor will know if you are not logging on regularly and this may influence your participation score.

PSYC 2500H-W Schedule

Date	Topic & Reading	Due dates	Discussion Topic
Module 1 Week 1	Introduction	Complete Library Skills tutorial. Library Skills quiz Jan. 15 th /16 th . With the exception of the last quiz (see Module 8), quizzes will be available from Sunday noon to Monday midnight	Introduce yourself to everyone in the class – tell us something about yourself.
Module 2 Week 2	Research Chapter 1	QUIZ Jan. 22 nd /23 rd Chapter 1	Does nature or nurture influence children’s health in the first few years of life. See grade book for your assigned “side”
Module 3 Week 3	Theory Chapter 2	Article summary due by Fri. Jan. 27 th at 4 pm in the assignment dropbox QUIZ Jan. 29 th /30 th Chapter 2	Does nature or nurture influence children’s health in the first few years of life. See Module 3 folder discussion group for your assigned group of five – discussion for step 3 of assignment one will be completed open Mon. Jan. 23 rd at 9 am to Sun. Jan. 29 th at noon.
Module 4 Week 4 & 5	Biological Development Chapters 3 to 5	QUIZ Feb. 12 th /13 th Chapters 3 to 5 Reflection paper due by Mon. Feb. 27 th at 4 pm in the assignment dropbox (step 5, assignment 1)	Does nature or nurture influence children’s health in the first few years of life. See Module 4 folder discussion group for your assigned group (pro and con paired for one discussion) — discussion for step 4 of assignment one will be completed open Mon. Jan. 30 th at 9 am to Sun. Feb 12 th at noon.
Module 5 Weeks 6 to 8: (note Feb 20 th to 24 th is the Spring Break and Mon. Feb 20 th is a holiday)	Cognitive Development Chapters 6 to 10	QUIZ March 11 th /12 th Chapters 6 to 10	Which of the 5 components of language will be most influenced by “texting”? Discussion open from Mon. Feb. 27 th at 9 am to Sun. Mar. 11 th at noon.
Module 6 Week 9 & 10	Social Development Chapters 11 to 14	Assignment 2, option A paper due by Fri. March 23 rd at 4 pm in the assignment dropbox QUIZ on Mar. 25 th /26 th Chapters 11-14	Should parents be allowed to raise their children in a gender neutral environment? Discussion open from Mon. Mar. 19 th at 9 am to Sun. Mar. 25 th at noon.
Module 7 Week 11	The Family Chapter 15	Assignment 2, option B paper due by Fri. Mar. 30 th at 4 pm in the assignment dropbox QUIZ on April 1 st /2 nd Chapter 15	Is spanking a useful discipline technique? Discussion open from Mon. Mar. 26 th at 9 am to Sun. Apr. 1 st at noon.
Module 8 Week 12 Fri. Apr. 6th is a holiday	Extra-familial Influences: TV, Computers, School & Peers Chapter 16	Assignment 2, option C paper due by Thurs. April 5 th at 4 pm in the assignment dropbox QUIZ on Thursday April 5 th all day until midnight. Chapter 16	What are the effects of media (e.g., TV, internet, movies) on child development? Discussion open from Sun. Apr. 1 st at noon to Wed. Apr. 4 th at midnight

The final exam will be an in-person exam and will be scheduled during the final exam period April 11-24, 2012. The final exam will test on material from Chapters 1 to 16.

University Policies

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Academic dishonesty, which includes plagiarism and cheating, is an extremely serious academic offence and carries penalties varying from a 0 grade on an assignment to expulsion from the University. Definitions, penalties, and procedures for dealing with plagiarism and cheating are set out in Trent University's *Academic Integrity Policy*. You have a responsibility to educate yourself – unfamiliarity with the policy is not an excuse. You are strongly encouraged to visit Trent's Academic Integrity website to learn more – www.trentu.ca/academicintegrity.

ACCESS TO INSTRUCTION:

It is Trent University's intent to create an inclusive learning environment. If a student has a disability and/or health consideration and feels that he/she may need accommodations to succeed in this course, the student should contact the Disability Services Office (BH 132, 748-1281, disabilityservices@trentu.ca) as soon as possible. Complete text can be found under Access to Instruction in the Academic Calendar.

Departmental Policy on Tests, Exams, and Assignments

A. MIDTERMS & FINAL EXAMINATIONS

Midterm examinations for half courses within the Psychology Department are scheduled by the instructor of the course. Midterm examinations for full courses and final examination for all courses are scheduled by the Registrar's Office. Students are strongly urged NOT to make any commitments (i.e., vacation, job related, or other travel plans) during either the term as a whole or the final examination period. Students are required to be available for all examinations during the periods for which they are scheduled (as published in course syllabi).

B. DEFERRAL OF MIDTERM / FINAL EXAMINATIONS and/or TERM WORK

Extensions of deadlines for completion of assignments or writing of midterms/final examinations may be granted to students on the basis of illness, accident, or other extreme and legitimate circumstances beyond their control. Consideration for deferrals will not normally be granted on the basis of vacation/travel plans or job-related obligations.

C. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Students should expect that supporting documentation will be required and must be submitted before a deferral is approved. For illness or accident, supporting documentation will take the form of: (1) the Trent University Medical Certificate from Health Services: (<http://www.trentu.ca/healthservices/medical.html>), or (2) a certificate or letter from the attending physician clearly indicating the start and end dates of the illness and the student's inability to write an examination, complete assignments, and/or attend classes, as relevant to the particular request. For other circumstances, students should consult the individual Psychology faculty member about acceptable forms of documentation.

Notes

1. Academic Integrity:

For the purpose of interpreting and applying the University policy on academic dishonesty, the Department of Psychology has adopted the following:

When a student submits a piece of written work in fulfillment of an assignment, he/she implicitly acknowledges the following: a) that she/he is the sole author of the work; b) that the wording and organization of the work, apart from acknowledged quotations, is her/his own; and c) that she/he has not and will not submit this work, either as a whole or in part, to satisfy another course requirement. These basic assumptions will be reasonably interpreted. They do not preclude collaboration between students upon a single project, by prior arrangement with the instructor, for shared academic credit (either for written or oral presentation).

For an elaboration of the Department's policy on, and for specific examples of, plagiarism, students should consult p. 178 in the APA (2010) and the sections on academic honesty (pp. 6-8), and appropriate citing and referencing (pp. 135-137, 169) in Mitchell et al. (2010) on reserve in the library. Students who have doubts about what might be considered academic dishonesty are urged to consult the instructor of the course. Ignorance of the University or Department policy does not excuse academic dishonesty. Submissions that fail to meet one or more of these considerations will be subject to procedures laid down in the policy on academic dishonesty as stated in the University calendar.

2. It is the policy of the Department NOT to accept faxed assignments.
3. The same assignment cannot be submitted in more than one course without the prior written permission of all instructors concerned. The written approval must be attached to the work when it is submitted.
4. Students are required to use American Psychological Association style (6th edition) for all written assignments.
5. Please see the Trent University academic calendar for University Diary dates, Academic Information and Regulations, and University and departmental degree requirements.
6. Last date to withdraw from a Winter half-term course without academic penalty in 2011-2012 is March 9 2012.