SYLLABUS
Psychology 2AA3: Survey of Child Development
Department of Psychology, Neuroscience, and Behaviour
McMaster University
Spring Term 2020

Time: Mondays and Wednesdays 6-9pm on Webex platform

Instructor:
Taigan MacGowan (pronounced Tay-gan)
macgowat@mcmaster.ca
Emails should include subject line 2AA3, otherwise might not be read
Skype Office Hours upon request

Contacting the Instructor: If you have a content question please refer to online Discussion boards (see FAQ below). All other emails should include subject line 2AA3.

Course Description: This course will introduce you to research and theory in developmental psychology, covering the years from birth to the emergence of puberty. We will discuss perceptual, cognitive, social, emotional, and moral development. We will also discuss the influence of parenting, peers, families, and media on child development.

Owing to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, McMaster has specified that all Spring/Summer term courses in 2020 be offered in an online and virtual format. Accordingly, the following changes have been made to how this course is to be delivered and assessed:

• Lectures will be live-streamed using Webex, with recordings available afterward
• Your instructor will be available to answer questions during lecture, on Avenue to Learn discussion boards, and Skyped office hours
• Students participate in a biweekly discussion board on Avenue to Learn
• Weekly quizzes will be administered on Avenue to Learn
• Students will complete two take-home exams (one midterm, one final) in short answer format that can be submitted on Avenue to Learn

Required Textbook: None.

Other Required Readings: Materials posted to Avenue to Learn are testable.

Avenue to Learn: You are expected to keep up to date with announcements, lectures, evaluations, and grades. Videos of livestreams will be posted after every lecture. Students should be aware when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, usernames for McMaster email accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation of this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If
you have any questions or concerns about this disclosure, please discuss this with the course instructor.

Evaluations:

1. **Participation (13%)**: You will be asked to participate in a discussion board after every lecture. You will be provided with a prompting question or dilemma. You may answer this question directly or engage with another student’s post. Content of the post will not be graded; however, you will only be granted participation marks if you have made an effort to engage with the content with at least three academic sentences. Each post will be worth 1.3% of your final mark and will be due by 9pm the day following each lecture (i.e., every Tuesday and Thursday at 9pm). Late posts will not be considered.

2. **Online Quizzes (30%)**: Every week you will complete an Avenue to Learn quiz. Each quiz will have a time limit and involve material that was presented in lecture that week. Quizzes will be released on Thursdays at 5pm and will be due Fridays at 5pm. Each quiz will be worth 6%.

3. **Midterm (25%)**: Take-home exam on Monday, May 25th from 6pm to 9pm.

4. **Final Take Home Exam (30%)**: Take-home exam on Wednesday, June 17th from 6pm to 9pm.

5. **Free Mark (2%)**: Everyone is awarded 2% upon enrolling in this class. This mark is to account for any minor discrepancies in marking. If you perceive any problems with how your exams are marked, you may only contact the instructor if the issues account for more than 2% of your final grade. This policy is to protect your final grade from minor mistakes in marking and to save the instructor’s time from re-reviewing a large number of exams. Mathematical errors do not count, if your exam appears to be tallied incorrectly, you may contact the instructor.

**Take-Home Exams**: Take home exams will be posted on Avenue to Learn at their scheduled start times. Both exams will be cumulative and be in short answer format. You may only use information that was presented in class materials (i.e., lecture, readings). Any outside sources (i.e., Internet articles, etc.) will not be included on our rubric. Please read and follow directions carefully. Exams should be submitted in 12 pt. Times New Roman with one inch margins to Avenue to Learn by their due date. Ten percent of your mark on the give exam will be docked for every 5 minutes that it is late. (Example: 9:01pm = -10%, 9:05pm = -10%, 9:06pm = -20%)

**Missed Evaluations**: In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work” www.mcmaster.ca/msaf. Valid MSAF requests received by the instructor within 24 hours of the first missed evaluation(s) will be accommodated by having points previously assigned to the missed work reassigned to the final exam mark instead. There will be no makeup tests.

**Academic Integrity**: Evaluations will be in open-book format; however, you are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior in all aspects of the learning process. Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behavior can result in serious consequences, e.g., a grade of zero on an assignment, loss of course credit with a notation on the transcript (“grade F assigned
for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on various types of academic dishonesty, please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy at www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity

Grade Calculations: Your final grade will be converted to a letter grade according to following convention: 90-100% = A+, 85-89% = A, 80-84% = A-, 77-79% = B+, 73-76% = B, 70-72% = B-, 67-69% = C+, 63-66% = C, 60-62% = C-, 57-59% = D+, 53-56% = D, 50-52% = D-, 0-49% = F. The instructor reserves the right to adjust final marks up or down, on an individual basis in light of special circumstances. Final grades may also be adjusted up or down on a class-wide basis depending on overall performance.

Frequently Asked Questions:

I have a content question! What should I do?

Step 1: What lecture is it pertaining to? Go to the Discussion board for that lecture.
Step 2: Check if someone else has asked the same question.
Step 3: If no one else has asked this question, ask on the board. It will be answered within 24 hours Monday to Friday.

Why don’t you post the slides?

Most evaluations in this course are open book. Instead of scrolling through slides to look for answers I would like to encourage you to absorb the material by creating your own notes and study sheets. This will give you a better chance of success for these evaluations. If you ever need to refer back to the slides you can do so by looking at the video content again.

I didn’t have enough time to complete my quiz! Why are there time restrictions?

Similarly, I don’t want you to be flipping through notes to find the answer. I want you to know the answer! I suggest that you prepare for these quizzes much like you might prepare for an in-class exam.

If the tests and quizzes are open book, do I really need to study?

Yes!! You must study to succeed in this class.
**Class and Evaluation Schedule**

*This schedule is subject to change. Any changes will be announced on Avenue to Learn.*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Evaluations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon, May 4</td>
<td>Introduction, Foundations, and Themes</td>
<td>Discussion due May 5 at 9pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, May 6</td>
<td>Developmental Research</td>
<td>Discussion due May 7 at 9pm Quiz due May 8 at 5pm</td>
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<td>Mon, May 11</td>
<td>Genetics, Prenatal, and Neural Development</td>
<td>Discussion due May 12 at 9pm</td>
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<td>Wed, May 13</td>
<td>Infancy</td>
<td>Discussion due May 14 at 9pm Quiz due May 15 at 5pm</td>
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<td>Mon, May 18</td>
<td>Victoria Day</td>
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<td>Wed, May 20</td>
<td>Toddlerhood</td>
<td>Discussion due May 21 at 9pm</td>
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<td>Submit Review Questions by May 21 at 9pm</td>
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<td>Mon, May 25</td>
<td>Midterm 6-9pm</td>
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<td>Wed, May 27</td>
<td>Piaget, Vygotsky, and Self Concept</td>
<td>Discussion due May 28 at 9pm Quiz due May 29 at 5pm</td>
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<td>Mon, June 1</td>
<td>Preschoolers, School Age, and Parenting</td>
<td>Discussion due June 2 at 9pm</td>
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<td>Wed, June 3</td>
<td>Temperament, Reactivity, and Self-Regulation</td>
<td>Discussion due June 4 at 9pm Quiz due June 5 at 5pm</td>
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<td>Mon, June 8</td>
<td>Understanding Others, Prosocial Development, and Morality</td>
<td>Discussion due June 9 at 9pm</td>
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<td>Wed, June 10</td>
<td>Intelligence, School Life, and Influences of the Media</td>
<td>Discussion due June 11 at 9pm Quiz due June 12 at 5pm Submit Review Questions by June 11 at 9pm</td>
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<td>Mon, June 15</td>
<td>Review</td>
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<td>Wed, June 17</td>
<td>Final Exam 6-9pm</td>
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