

**SYLLABUS****This syllabus is tentative. It may change.****Class**

Psychology 393, Research in Developmental Psychology, Fall Term 2006  
 Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:30 - 2:20 p.m.  
 PAS 4288

**Instructor**

Dr. Ori Friedman (PAS 4014)  
Potential meeting times: Fri anytime between 9 am - 5pm.

**Teaching Assistant**

Agnieszka Polanowski (PAS 4012)  
Potential meeting times: Tue, Wed, or Thu, anytime between 9am - 5pm.

**Contacting the Instructor and Teaching Assistant**

Please use UW-ACE to send e-mails connected with the class. If you have any issues, questions, etc you should generally contact the TA first, and only contact the instructor if additional help is needed. To set up a meeting, send an e-mail proposing a meeting time based on the **potential meeting times** listed above. Then we will either confirm the proposed time or propose another time.

**Course description**

This course is on Research in Developmental Psychology. To succeed in this class you will need to attend class, read assigned articles, and complete a series of assignments. If you miss a class, you are responsible for getting information about what you missed from other students. The instructor and TA do not provide notes or outlines to students who have missed classes. You should read each assigned reading before the corresponding class.

**Course requirements and grading**

This class will not feature any exams or tests. Your final grade will be based on assignments (85%) and class participation (15%). Class participation includes, but is not limited to, attendance.

All written assignments will be uploaded to UW-ACE and handed in as hard copies (i.e. printed out on paper). Uploaded assignments should be in MS word or RTF format. All assignments should be written in 12pt Times New Roman font, double spaced, with all margins set at 1 inch (2.54 cm).

**Lab Days and the Early Childhood Education Centre (ECEC)**

Classes will occasionally be replaced by 'lab days', during which assignments will be completed outside of class. To complete some assignments you will need to go to the [ECEC](#) to observe children in 'free play'. The ECEC is located in the basement of PAS, and free play takes place between 10:30 - 11:15 am and 2:30 - 3:15 pm, although there is no afternoon shift on Fridays. To observe free play for assignments call Dianne Foreman at 33167 and let her know when to expect you.

**Summary of Assignments**

1. Statement of interest. Max pages = 3. Worth 5%
2. Bibliography on assigned topic. Worth 5%
3. Open-ended Observation in ECEC and paper. Max Pages = 5. Worth 10%
4. Observational Experiment. Max pages = 6. Worth 15%
5. Presentations. Max time per presentation is 15 minutes + 5 minutes for questions. Worth 10%
6. Final Project: Worth 40%
  - a) First draft. Worth 5%
  - b) Write two anonymous reviews. Max pages = 3 per review. Worth = 5% (i.e. 2.5% each)
  - c) Final draft of paper. Max pages = ????. Worth 20%
  - d) Letter responding to reviewers. Worth 5%

**Note on APA format**

Many of the assignments will require you to use APA (American Psychological Association) format. i.e. the style described in the 5th edition of the *APA Publication Manual* (2001). Copies of the manual are reserved at the Dana Porter Library. You can either get a copy from the main circulation desk or from the Information Desk. (Call Number is **BF76.7 .P83 2001**). You can also learn much about APA style by downloading the APA minimanual PDF (under the Lessons Tab).

**Policy on late assignments**

Assignments **MUST** be turned in when due. The corresponding files should be uploaded to UW-ACE before class on the date due. Unless you have an appropriate doctor's note, or there is a death in your family (or some equally severe situation) assignments will not be accepted late.

[No broken printers, no hard-drives failures, computer crashes. Save it often, e-mail it to yourself as an attachment to have a backup, etc.]

**Note on avoidance of academic offences**

All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes an academic offence, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their academic actions. When the commission of an offence is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline). For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students

are directed to consult the summary of Policy #71 which is supplied in the Undergraduate Calendar (section 1; on the Web at <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>). If you need help in learning how to avoid offences such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission, or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your TA or course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean.

Students who believe that they have been wrongfully or unjustly penalized have the right to grieve; refer to Policy #70, Student Grievance, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>.

Also see "Avoiding Academic Offences" ([http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic\\_responsibility.html](http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html))

## ASSIGNMENTS

### 1. Statement of interest. Max pages = 3. Worth 5%

Describe a topic that you might be interested in investigating as a Developmental Psychologist. This might be a topic you've always been interested in, one you heard about in a class, or maybe something you just think about in trying to write the assignment. It does not need to be an established topic. Beyond saying what the topic is, you should specify why you find it interesting, and what you'd want to discover about it.

### 2. Bibliography on assigned topic. Worth 5%

I will specify a topic in class, and you will need to find citations for as many papers on this topic as possible. Mention it's a contest. Mention that it should be done in APA style.

### 3. Open-ended Observation in ECEC and paper. Max Pages = 5. Worth 10%

You will observe children's free play in the ECEC for a minimum of half an hour. Then write up a reflection paper. This paper should describe something you observed, including a reflection on its significance. You do not need to summarize everything you observe. For example, you can write about something that happened in the span of 5 minutes, or maybe some general feature of children's play that you noticed. It really depends on what catches your attention, and what you find interesting. But remember, the paper should not be merely descriptive. For example, you might stress why you find what you observed interesting, questions your observations raise, etc.

### 4. Observational Experiment. Max pages = 6. Worth 15%

In teams you will come up with an observational scoring method, and then use it across two ECEC sessions. You will individually write up the findings in a brief APA style paper, which does not require citations or references.

### 5. Presentations. Max time per presentation is 15 minutes + 5 minutes for questions. Worth 10%

You will pick a research paper based on your own interests. And present it to the class. You should do the presentation in power point, summarizing and assessing the paper. Tell us what you liked, what didn't you like, and which future directions research might be taken in.

### 6. Final Project: Worth 40% overall

a) **First draft = 5%.** Write up a first draft as an APA style paper.

b) **Two anonymous reviews. Max pages = 3 per review. Worth = 5% (i.e. 2.5% each).** Each paper will be assigned two anonymous reviewers, and so each of you will write anonymous reviews of two papers.

c) **Final draft of paper. Max pages = ????. Worth 20%.** Revise paper in response to reviews to arrive at a final draft.

d) **Letter responding to reviewers. Worth 5%.** Write a letter explaining your responses to the reviewers' concerns.

## TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE (This schedule may change!!!)

Week 1	Sep 11 Mon	Discuss course. Give interests assignment
	Sep 13 Wed	Discuss interests assignment, while doing introductions.
Week 2	Sep 18 Mon	**Meet in Library, Room 4028
	Sep 20 Wed	**Meet in Library, Room 4028
Week 3	Sep 25 Mon	Give out Biblio assignment
	Sep 27 Wed	**Class cancelled for Biblio Assignments.
Week 4	Oct 2 Mon	Biblio assignment due. Discuss methods in class... Introduce next assignment: Observation in lab.
	Oct 4 Wed	**Observation in ECEC – class cancelled.
Week 5	Oct 9 Mon	Observation papers due. Discussion. Assign some observational papers to read.
	Oct 11 Wed	Discuss observational papers, and as class come up with observation topic and scheme.
Week 6	Oct 16 Mon	**Observation in lab – class cancelled.
	Oct 18 Wed	**Observation in lab – class cancelled.
Week 7	Oct 23 Mon	We tabulate data from observational sessions, and discuss the experiment.
	Oct 25 Wed	Talk about experimental techniques. Give out final assignment... or REFWORKS session.
Week 8	Oct 30 Mon	Paper presentations 1/7
	Nov 1 Wed	Paper presentations 2/7 (Observational papers due... Give out final assignment...)

Week 9	Nov 6 Mon	Paper presentations 3/7
	Nov 8 Wed	Paper presentations 4/7
Week 10	Nov 13 Mon	Paper presentations 5/7. Assign paper to read. Be prepared to critique it for next time.
	Nov 15 Wed	Discuss critiques of paper in class. Discuss further.
Week 11	Nov 20 Mon	Everyone administers tests on everyone else. Copies of each test handed in (word format preferred).
	Nov 22 Wed	Continue administering tests on everyone else...
Week 12	Nov 27 Mon	First draft of assignments handed in. Papers then disseminated to anonymous reviewers). Paper presentations 6/7
	Nov 29 Wed	Anonymous reviews due (2 per person). Given to authors. Paper presentations 7/7.
Week 13	Dec 4 Mon	Final papers due, including letter responding to anonymous reviews