

Psych 389, Social Science Advanced Research Methods, Developmental Psychology
Psych 393, Research in Developmental Psychology
Fall 2018, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2:30-3:50 pm, DWE 3522A

Instructor & T.A. (please arrange appointments by emailing either of us).

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Office Hours: Please arrange appointments by emailing either of us.

Course Description

This course is designed to help you develop key skills used by researchers in developmental psychology, and in psychology more broadly; many of these skills are also useful in non-academic contexts. The course is designed to be driven by your own interests and you will gain experience asking research questions, designing studies, conducting literature searches, collecting and interpreting data, and presenting findings. Please note that you will not directly work with children in this course. You will observe children and collect observational data in the Psychology Department's Early Childhood Education Centre; but you will only directly collect experimental data from your fellow students in the class. To succeed in this course, you must attend class, be engaged, and complete a series of assignments.

Readings. Some optional reading and links will be uploaded to LEARN.

ASSIGNMENTS & OTHER REQUIREMENTS

A1. Self-assessment of research skills background. Due Sep 14th, 5pm (2%, all-or-none).

A2. Test of library and literature search skills on Sep 25 (6%).

A3. Observation in ECEC & Reflection paper. Paper due Oct. 4 (2%). Observe children's free play in the ECEC and then write a reflection paper (400 words maximum).

A4. Observational study & poster presentation (20% overall). Collect observational data in groups of 2-3, and then individually create and present a poster.

1. Oral proposal on Oct 11 (2%). A 3 minute oral presentation with your group.
2. Observation at ECEC.
3. Creating a poster (upload to LEARN by Oct 23, beginning of class)
4. Poster sessions, Oct 23 & 25 (18%). LOCATION TBA

A5. Journal article presentations (15%). Present a research article that interests you to the class; post PDF of article to LEARN by Oct26.

A6. Final project (45% overall). Design, conduct, and write-up an experiment. This occurs in 5 steps:

1. Conduct experiment on members of class (Nov 6 & 8) and fake data from kids
2. First draft of paper due Nov 22 by midnight.
3. Reviews of 2 rough drafts, due Nov 27 by 7pm. Max 2 pages/review (4%, i.e. 2% each).
4. Final draft. Max pages = 10; worth 40%; due Dec 7 by 5pm.
5. Letter responding to reviewers. 1% (all-or-nothing); due Dec 7 by 5pm.

Participation (10%). Includes attendance (~half the grade) and contributions to class discussions and question sessions.

COMPLETING & SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS

-Written assignments should be in .doc, .docx, or .rtf format, and written in 12pt Times New Roman font, double spaced, with all margins set at 1 inch (2.54 cm). Page/word limits *do not include*: titles or title pages, abstracts, figures, tables, or reference sections.

-Many assignments require you to use APA (American Psychological Association) format as described in the 6th edition of the APA Publication Manual (2010). A “mini-manual” has been uploaded to LEARN

-Unless otherwise specified, files should be uploaded to LEARN before class on the date due. Please double-check that your file is uploaded correctly!

-Save your work often, e-mail it to yourself as an attachment as a backup, and please don't leave it till the night before or the due date. Broken printers, hard-drives failures, computer crashes are not excuses.

-Unless you have an appropriate doctor’s note, a death in your family (or equally severe situation), extensions for late assignments will not be given. Instead, late assignments will receive a maximum grade of 50%.

COURSE OUTLINE

Sep 6	Introduction to the course.
Sep 11	We introduce ourselves & describe potential interests; assign A1.
Sep 13	Meet in LIB329 (a computer lab). Learn literature search skills; note: A1 is due Sep 14th, 5pm
Sep 18	Reviewing background skills (i.e., Excel & key terms)
Sep 20	Discuss Intros & Methods. A3 will be assigned
Sep 25	Meet in LIB329 (computer lab). Complete A2, test of literature search skills.
Sep 27	Talk about writing papers & experimental design.
Oct 2	Discuss observational studies, Assign A4, and form groups of 2-3.
Oct 4	A3 is due. Tips on concise writing & oral presentations; dissect-a-paper.
Oct 9	STUDY DAY – NO CLASS
Oct 11	A4 Observational study proposals
Oct 16	Lab day for observation in the ECEC; class cancelled.
Oct 18	Lab day for observation in the ECEC; class cancelled.
Oct 23	A4 is due. All posters must be uploaded by class time. A4 poster presentations, part 1.
Oct 25	A4 poster presentations, part 2.
Oct 30	A5 paper presentations 1/8
Nov 1	A5 paper presentations 2/8
Nov 6	Everyone administers tests on everyone else
Nov 8	Continue administering tests.
Nov 13	A5 paper presentations 3/8 (possibly finish administering tests)
Nov 15	A5 paper presentations 4/8
Nov 20	A5 paper presentations 5/8
Nov 22	A5 paper presentations 6/8; 1st draft of A6 paper due
Nov 27	A5 paper presentations 7/8; Anonymous reviews due (2 per person) & given to authors.
Nov 29	A5 paper presentations 8/8; [***A6 final paper & letter responding to reviews due on Dec 7***].

Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. See the [UWaterloo Academic Integrity webpage](#) and the [Arts Academic Integrity webpage](#) for more information.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).

Concerns About a Course Policy or Decision

Informal Stage. We in the Psychology Department take great pride in the high quality of our program and our instructors. Though infrequent, we know that students occasionally find themselves in situations of conflict with their instructors over course policies or grade assessments. If such a conflict arises, the Associate Chair for Undergraduate Affairs (Richard Eibach) is available for consultation and to mediate a resolution between the student and instructor: Email: reibach@uwaterloo.ca; Ph 519-888-4567 ext. 38790

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read [Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances](#), Section 4. When in doubt, please be certain to contact Richard Eibach, the Associate Chair for Undergraduate Affairs who will provide further assistance; reibach@uwaterloo.ca.

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to [Policy 72 - Student Appeals](#).

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Note for students with disabilities: The [AccessAbility Services](#) office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (1401), collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS office at the beginning of each academic term.

Accommodation for course requirements

- Students requesting accommodation for course requirements (assignments, midterm tests, final exams, etc.) due to illness should do the following:
 - o Consult the University’s [examination regulations](#) for information about procedures and policies for requesting accommodations
 - o seek medical treatment as soon as possible
 - o obtain documentation of the illness with a completed uWaterloo [Verification of Illness Form](#)

- o submit that form to the instructor within 48 hours. Students in Centre for Extended Learning (CEL) courses must submit their confirmation of the illness to CEL.
- o (if possible) inform the instructor by the due date for the course requirement that you will be unable to meet the deadline and that documentation will be forthcoming.
- In the case of a missed final exam, the instructor and student will negotiate an extension for the final exam, which will typically be written as soon as possible, but no later than the next offering of the course.
- In the case of a missed assignment deadline, midterm test, or quiz, the instructor will either:
 - o waive the course component and re-weight remaining term work as he/she deems fit according to circumstances and the goals of the course, or
 - o provide an extension.
- In the case of bereavement, the instructor will provide similar accommodations to those for illness. Appropriate documentation to support the request will be required.
- Students who are experiencing extenuating circumstances should also inform their academic advisors regarding their personal difficulties.
- Elective arrangements such as travel plans are not acceptable grounds for granting accommodations to course requirements per the [uWaterloo Examination Regulations and Related Matters](#).

Official version of the course outline

If there is a discrepancy between the hard copy outline (i.e., if students were provided with a hard copy at the first class) and the outline posted on LEARN, the outline on LEARN will be deemed the official version. Outlines on LEARN may change as instructors develop a course, but they become final as of the first class meeting for the term.

Cross-listed course

Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSYCH cross-list will count in the Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Psychology rubric.

Mental Health Services

[Mental Health Services](#) aim is to provide holistic programming and services to help you lead a healthy and balanced life. We strive to provide a secure, supportive environment for students of all orientations and backgrounds.

Students suffering from problems with anxiety, depression, problems with sleep, attention, obsessions or compulsions, relationship difficulties, severe winter blues, etc., may make an appointment by phone or in person. Appointments are usually available within two days of initial contact with one of our medical doctors. All contacts are completely confidential.

Contact Health Services

[Health Services Building](#)

Call 519-888-4096 to schedule an appointment

Call 1-866-797-0000 for free 24/7 advice from a health professional

Contact Counselling Services

[Needles Hall Addition, NH 2401](#)

Call 519-888-4567 x 32655 to schedule an appointment

counserv@uwaterloo.ca