

SYLLABUS

[This syllabus is tentative; it may change.]

Class

Psychology 393, Research in Developmental Psychology, Fall Term 2012

Section 1. Mon & Wed., 12:30 - 2:20 p.m., HH 334

Section 2. Mon & Wed, 4:30 – 6:20 pm, HH 334

Instructor

Ori Friedman (PAS 4019). Potential meeting times: Fridays anytime between 10am-5pm.

Teaching Assistant

Section 1. Angela Nyhout (PAS 4011). Potential meeting times: Mon-Wed, 9am-noon.

Section 2. Shaylene Nancekivell (PAS 4017) Potential meeting time: Mon & Wed, 3-4pm.

Contacting the Instructor and Teaching Assistant

Please use LEARN to send e-mails connected with the class. To set up a meeting with the instructor or with your TA, please 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.

Course requirements and grading

Your final grade will be based on assignments (90%) and class participation (10%).

Lab Days and the Early Childhood Education Centre (ECEC)

Classes will occasionally be replaced by lab days, on 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 10:15-11:20 am and 2:15-3:20 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 interests. Uploaded to LEARN. Ungraded
2. Open-ended observation in ECEC and paper. Max pages = 3. Worth 5%
3. Bibliography test. Worth 5%
4. Observational experiment & poster presentation. Worth 15%
5. Journal article presentation. Worth 15%
6. Final project: Worth 50%
 - a) First draft. This is unmarked, but necessary for parts b) and d).
 - b) Write anonymous reviews of two other students' first drafts. Max pages = 3 per review. Worth 6% (i.e. 3% for each review)
 - c) Final draft of paper. Max pages = 10. Worth 40%
 - d) Letter responding to reviewers. Worth 4%

Participation

This is worth 10% of the final grade. It includes attendance (about half the grade), and also making contributions to class discussions and question sessions. Students who miss classes or are late will receive low participation marks, as will students who rarely speak.

Written assignments.

All written assignments will be uploaded to LEARN. Uploaded assignments should be in .doc, .docx, 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). Page limits do not include title or abstract pages.

Many of the assignments will require you to use APA (American Psychological Association) format. i.e. the style described in the 6th edition of the APA Publication Manual (2010). Copies of the manual are reserved at the Dana Porter Library (Call Number is BF76.7 .P83 2010). A “mini-manual has also been uploaded to LEARN.

Policy on late assignments. Assignments **MUST** be turned in when due. The corresponding files should be uploaded to LEARN before class on the date due (unless specified otherwise). 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 as excuses. Save it often, e-mail it to yourself as an attachment to have a backup, and please don't leave it till the night before.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Statement of life interests. Ungraded, but required. Describe things you enjoy in general life and find *interesting*. Perhaps 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. Open-ended observation in ECEC & reflection paper; max pages = 3; worth 5%. Observe children’s free play in the ECEC for a minimum of half an hour, and then write a reflection paper describing something you observed, and reflecting on its significance. You could write about something that happened in the span of one minute, some repeated event, or a general feature of children’s play that you noticed. The topic depends on what catches your attention and interest. But the paper should not be merely descriptive, so please do not just describe events. You should also discuss why you find what you observed interesting, or discuss questions that your observations raise. Dates you may visit the ECEC: Sep 20, 21, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28; Oct 1, 2. Free play takes place between 10:15 - 11:20 am and 2:15 - 3:20 pm, though 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.

3. Bibliography assignment; worth 5%. This assignment, conducted on computers, will test your ability to find citations and conduct literature searches.

4. Observational experiment, & poster presentation; worth 15%. Working in teams you will come up with an observational scoring method, and then use it across two ECEC sessions. You will then *individually* prepare posters on your groups’ data, and upload them to LEARN. You will **print** out your poster, and over two classes, we will hold poster sessions. In each session, half the students will present their posters to the other half of the students, who will individually visit the posters. You should briefly describe your project for each visitor (i.e., in 5 minutes or less). This is what happens at poster sessions in academic conferences, and is similar to a science fair. Dates you may visit the ECEC: Oct 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19. Free play takes place between 10:15 - 11:20 am and 2:15 - 3:20 pm, though 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.

I have uploaded a template for creating posters in PowerPoint to the “Useful Files” area. This template may be useful for designing your poster. Posters should be no larger than 86cm X 111cm, though you may choose whether you prefer landscape or portrait. You can save money, by making your poster black and white; color is

not necessary. To get ideas for your poster, walk around the research area on the 4th floor of the PAS. Feel free to get creative (e.g., color it in by hand).

You have two options for printing your posters:

Use a regular printer. You can print your poster on individual separate sheets of paper and arrange them in a rectangle (e.g., 4 X 4 sheets). You could do the same, but then tape/glue the sheets, so that there are no gaps between them. For this option, “poster printing” should be one of your printer settings in Powerpoint; it is found in the same place as your setting for “multiple pages per side”. Also for this “taping” option, you may want to adjust your print margins so that they are as small as possible

Use a commercial printer that prints large posters. You can have a company print your poster. Fedex in University Plaza near Harvey's is probably cheapest. To order a black and white poster on normal paper ask for an “over-sized black and white print 34 inches by 44 inches”. This option costs about **\$10 plus tax** (but perhaps confirm the price and other details before making your poster). Ordering a color poster will cost \$50-\$75 plus tax and will be printed on thicker poster paper. Again, this is **NOT** necessary or required. To have a poster printed commercially, you will probably need to provide them with a .pdf of your poster. Remember that the printer cannot right to the edges, so leave at least a 1/4 inch of margin room in your design. Finally, if you decide to go with a commercial printer, call them in advance to see what their current wait times are (Fedex: 519-746-3363)

5. Journal article presentations. Max time per presentation is 15 minutes + 5 minutes for questions; worth 15%. You will choose a research paper based on your own interests, and present it to the class. Give the presentation using PowerPoint (or similar software), and both review and assess the paper. Tell us why the topic is interesting, what you liked, what didn't you like, remaining question, and possible follow-up work that might be conducted. You must confirm your chosen paper with me in advance, and post a PDF of your chosen paper to LEARN. If a paper has already been chosen by someone else, you will need to choose a different paper.

6. Final Project; Worth 50% overall. You will design an experiment to be conducted on adults and children aged somewhere between 3- and 5-years-old. You will test the others students in class (i.e. adult participants), and “fake” data for the child participants. You will then write an APA style research paper reporting your experiment.

Important note. The experiment conducted on adults should use methods appropriate for testing children. Only a few exceptions to this are permitted: 1) where children are shown a scenarios with adult narration, adults can look over a cartoon with the narrative written down; 2) where children are asked questions verbally, adults can answer questions using pen-and-paper; 3) where tests meant to tax children's abilities would be too easy for adults, more difficult items can be used (e.g., children and adults might get age-appropriate numerical problems).

Here are the steps in completing your APA style research paper:

a) Write up a first draft as an APA style paper.

b) Two anonymous reviews. Max pages = 2 per review; worth 6% (i.e. 3% each) and graded by the author of the reviewed paper. Each paper will be assigned two anonymous reviewers, and you will each review two papers. (If you do not submit your first draft, you will not be allowed to review anyone else's paper (b), nor will you be able to respond to reviews (d; see below), and so this will lead to an automatic 10% deduction in your final grade!). I have posted a PDF called “Sample reviews and revisions” to LEARN, which will show you what reviews typically look like.

c) Final draft of paper. Max pages = 10; worth 40%. Revise paper in response to reviews to arrive at a final draft.

d) Letter responding to reviewers. Worth 4% (all-or-nothing). Write a letter explaining your responses to the reviewers' concerns. Best method is to keep the original review in its entirety, and respond below each of

the reviewer's recommendations in bold, either describing how you revised the paper in response to the recommendation, or explaining why you chose to not revise in accordance with the recommendation. (Again, see the PDF, "Sample reviews and revisions".

Week 1	Sep10	Discuss course. Assign A1 Statement of life/intellectual interests (ungraded).
	Sep12	Do Introductions with life interests
Week 2	Sep17	Computer room, meet in PAS1237
	Sep19	Discuss methods & introductions in class. Introduce A2 Open-ended observation in ECEC & reflection paper
Week 3	Sep24	Computer room, meet in PAS1237
	Sep26	Lab day; Open-ended observation in ECEC; class cancelled.
Week 4	Oct1	Biblio assignment test in PAS1237
	Oct3	A2 reflection paper due; discuss.
Week 5	Oct8	THANKSGIVING; class cancelled.
	Oct10	Discuss observational papers. Form groups of ~4; each comes up with topic & coding scheme.
Week 6	Oct15	Lab day; Observation in ECEC; class cancelled.
	Oct17	Talk about writing papers & experimental design.
Week 7	Oct22	A4 poster presentations, part 1. All posters must be uploaded by class time.
	Oct24	A4 poster presentations, part 2.
Week 8	Oct29	A5 paper presentations 1/8
	Oct31	A5 paper presentations 2/8
Week 9	Nov5	A5 paper presentations 3/8
	Nov7	A5 paper presentations 4/8
Week 10	Nov12	Everyone administers tests on everyone else.
	Nov14	Continue administering tests
Week 11	Nov19	A5 paper presentations 5/8
	Nov21	A5 paper presentations 6/8
Week 12	Nov26	A5 paper presentations 7/8; 1st draft of A6 paper handed in; papers disseminated to anonymous reviewers.
	Nov28	A5 paper presentations 8/8; A6 anonymous reviews due Nov 30th (2 per person) & given to authors.
Week 13	Dec3	Day off to work on final papers (unless we are seriously backlogged).

Final Papers are due on Monday December 10th, including letter responding to anonymous reviews.

RESOURCES IF YOU ARE FEELING STRESS / PRESSURE

[Counselling Services at Needles Hall](#)

[Health Services](#)

MANDATORY CONTENTS FOR ALL SYLABBI:

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.

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, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>

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, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm>

Academic Integrity website (Arts): http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (UW): <http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/>

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

Note for students with disabilities: The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, 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 OPD at the beginning of each academic term.