

Course Description & Objectives. This course aims to increase understanding of children's cognitive and conceptual development. You will learn almost all content by reading chapters and articles on different areas of cognitive development. I will not be lecturing, but will answer questions you have about the readings. You will also complete a series of assignments intended to help you master the content, to inform you about ongoing debates about the nature of cognitive development, to improve your abilities to reason and write critically and creatively, and to allow you to pursue your own interests relating to cognitive and conceptual development.

Instructor. Ori Friedman, friedman@uwaterloo.ca

Teaching Assistants (TAs).

Elizabeth Attisano (eaattisa@uwaterloo.ca)

Claudia Sehl (c2sehl@uwaterloo.ca)

Martin Turpin (mhturpin@uwaterloo.ca)

To ask questions or to discuss issues relating to the course

Please email me (friedman@uwaterloo.ca) with any questions you have about the course or assignments. If I think your question may interest others, I will also post the answer to this [FAQ](#). So please check the FAQ before emailing with a question—perhaps the answer is already there!

If you'd like to talk (e.g., by skype, MS Teams, or phone), please briefly explain why in your email. Also be sure to propose at least 3 potential times (e.g., Friday at 2:30pm) and to provide your preferred contact info if necessary (e.g., skype ID). I will either confirm a time or propose other potential times.

If you'd like to discuss grading by the TAs, please start by contacting the TA that graded a particular assignment. If your TA does not respond to an email within 2 work days, please let me know.

Course Requirements & Assessments

Readings. Most weeks, you will read articles and chapters by experts in different areas of cognitive development. These readings will be uploaded to LEARN and listed in the course schedule (see below). (The final project will require you to read additional journal articles specific to the topic you choose to address. This course does not use a textbook.)

Discussion board posts (ungraded). You will probably have questions about the weekly readings. You can post these to a discussion board on LEARN each week by Wednesday night; you are also welcome to respond to other people's questions. Each Thursday, I will answer the posted questions. Note: Posting questions is in your interest because (as explained next) there will be quizzes and writing assignments based on the readings.

Quizzes on readings (30% of final grade). On most Fridays (see course outline) there will be a multiple choice quiz on that week's reading. You will access the quizzes on LEARN (under the Submit tab). Quizzes are open-book (i.e., you can use the original readings and your notes), but you must do them by yourself. Most quizzes will include about 20 questions. To accommodate different schedules, you are free to complete each quiz anytime between 8am and 10pm on each Friday (Eastern time) where one is assigned, but you will have to complete it within 30 min. (If I vary the time limit, you will be notified).

Reflections on readings (30% of final grade). On most Fridays (see course outline below), you will submit a written reflection on the weekly reading by 10pm. Instructions for these assignments are available [here](#).

Final project (35% total). A final paper where you will design a potential experiment on cognitive development, preceded by two preparatory assignments. *(Links with further instructions will be provided here).*

- a) **Proposal (5% of final grade).** Due Jul 8 (5pm). Outline a potential topic for your final paper, and indicate some journal articles you may read for background research.
- b) **Presentation (5% of final grade).** Due Jul 29 (5pm). Create an oral presentation relating to your final paper.
- c) **Final paper (25%).** Due Aug 7 (7am). Maximum length will be 8-10 double-spaced pages, not including title page, references, tables, or figures.

Participation (5% of final grade). Occasionally, brief quizzes will check that you've understood the instructions for different assignments; you will be notified about these quizzes via announcements on LEARN. Performance on these quizzes will contribute to your participation grade. The participation grade may be based on other things also.

Course Schedule

May11-15	Intro to the course (link for presentation).	
May18-22	<i>Developing a theory of mind.</i>	Quiz & Reflection for May22.
May25-29	<i>Executive functions.</i>	Quiz & Reflection for May29.
Jun1-5	<i>Imagination.</i>	Quiz & Reflection for Jun5.
Jun 8-12	<i>Development of causal reasoning.</i>	Quiz & Reflection for Jun12.
Jun15-19	<i>Categorization.</i>	Quiz & Reflection for Jun19.
Jun22-26	<i>Development of social categorization.</i>	Quiz & Reflection for Jun26.
Jun29-Jul3	<i>Development of problem solving.</i>	Quiz & Reflection for Jul3.
Jul6-10	Final paper proposals due July 8 at 5pm	
Jul13-17	Reading TBA.	Quiz & Reflection for Jul17.
Jul20-24	Reading TBA.	Quiz & Reflection for Jul 24.
Jul27-31	Presentations due Jul 29 at 5pm	
Aug3-5	Work on final paper; final paper is due Aug 7th at 7am.	

Dropping-the-lowest & Missed or late assignments

In determining your final grade, I will drop your lowest quiz-on-readings grade and your lowest reflection grade. If you do not complete the assignments on time one week (no matter what the reason) that week will count as the dropped grade. Missing further quizzes or reflections will risk a grade of 0, unless you inform us about a severe situation interfering with your ability to complete these. For the other assignments, extensions will not be granted unless you inform us about a severe situation that warrants granting an extension. Late assignments that are not granted an extension will receive a maximum grade of 60%.

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