

Faculty of Health
Department of Psychology
HH/PSYC 4010 6.0 Section C
Location: Vari Hall 3005
SEMINAR IN DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY
Mondays, 11:30 am – 2:30 pm
Fall, Winter 2024-25

Instructor Information

Instructor: Prof. Scott A. Adler

Office: 5030A Dahdaleh Building

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm, and by appointment

Email: adler@yorku.ca

Course Prerequisite(s): Course prerequisites are strictly enforced.

- [HH/PSYC 1010 6.00 \(Introduction to Psychology\)](#)
- [HH/PSYC 2021 3.00 \(Statistical Methods I\) or HH/PSYC 2020 6.00 \(Statistical Methods I and II\)](#)
- [HH/PSYC 2030 3.00 \(Introduction to Research Methods\) or substitutes](#)
- HH/PSYC 2110 3.00 (Developmental Psychology)
- Students must be in an Honours program in Psychology and have completed at least 84 credits (excluding (EDUC) education courses)

Course website: [eClass](#)

Course Description

In this course, we will be focusing on the theoretical aspects of developmental psychology in infancy and early childhood. Class lectures will include discussions about whether the appearance of various capacities are due to innate (biological or genetic) mechanisms or is due to the writing by experience on the infant's and child's blank slate, a consideration of Piagetian theory, and modern information-processing theories. We will also discuss current theorizing about neural development. Finally, we will delve into the modern theories surrounding the development in infancy and early childhood of specific capacities such as perception, working memory, long-term memory, object knowledge, language acquisition, and social learning. Underlying our discussions of theory will be a consideration of methodology and specific empirical evidence. In particular, we will consider research that both supports and refutes leading theories. Throughout, the relevant empirical research will be a constant feature of our discussions.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate in-depth knowledge in developmental psychology.
2. Critically evaluate, synthesize and resolve conflicting results in developmental psychology.
3. Articulate trends in developmental psychology.
4. Locate research articles and show critical thinking about research findings in developmental psychology.
5. Express knowledge of developmental psychology in written form.
6. Engage in evidence-based dialogue with course director and peers.
7. Demonstrate an ability to work with others.

Required Text

- There is no required text for this course. Readings of source material, review papers, selected book chapters, and empirical reports, will be accessible from the course’s Moodle site. Additional readings of news reports of relevant new findings or related topics will be assigned on an ad-hoc basis throughout the course.

Course Requirements and Assessment

There will be two exams, one per term. These exams will be cumulative and will cover the readings and lectures reviewed during that term. The format of these exams will be take-home essay exams, with the questions provided during the final class of each term and due the last day of the final exam period. Students will be required to answer 4 out of 5 questions, with a length of 5 typed pages per question. In the Fall term, an assigned presentation will be completed and in the Winter term, a term paper will be handed in. Finally, an assessment will be made of each student’s participation in the course. This will be accomplished by being a part of class discussions, but mostly by emailing in before each class meeting one question, thought, or critique about that week’s readings.

Assessment	Date of Evaluation	Weighting
Participation	Weekly, throughout the year	10.0%
Project and Presentation	November 25 and December 2	12.5%
Fall Exam	December 20	32.5%
Term Paper	March 31	12.5%
Winter Exam	April 25	32.5%
Total		100%

Description of Assignments

Detailed information regarding the project and presentation and regarding the term paper will be provided later in separate handouts.

Grading as per Senate Policy

The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and tests* will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 90, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.)

(For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar – [Grading Scheme for 2024-25](#))

Late Work/Missed Tests or Exams

For any missed quiz or late assignment, students MUST complete the following online form which will be received and reviewed in the Psychology undergraduate office. At this time, due to COVID-19 an Attending Physician’s Statement (APS) is not required, however, a reason for missing an evaluated component in the course must be provided.

[HH PSYC: Missed Tests/Exams Form](#). Failure to complete the form within 48 hours of the original deadline will result in a grade of zero for the missed exam. Makeup exams will be scheduled within 10 days of the original exam date. Failure to write the makeup exam after being approved to do so will result in a grade of zero for the missed exam.

Add/Drop Deadlines

For a list of all important dates please refer to [Undergraduate Fall/Winter 2024-2025 Important Dates](#)

	Fall (Term F)	Year (Term Y)	Winter (Term W)
Last date to add a course without permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	September 18	September 18	January 20
Last date to add a course with permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	October 2	October 16	January 31
Drop deadline: Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	November 8	February 7	March 14
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of “W” on transcript – see note below)	November 9 – December 3	February 9 - April 4	March 15 -April 4

Add and Drop Deadline Information

There are deadlines for adding and dropping courses, both academic and financial. Since, for the most part, the dates are **different**, be sure to read the information carefully so that you understand the differences between the sessional dates below and the [Refund Tables](#).

You are strongly advised to pay close attention to the "Last date to enrol without permission of course instructor" deadlines. These deadlines represent the last date students have unrestricted access to the registration and enrolment system.

After that date, you must contact the professor/department offering the course to arrange permission.

You can drop courses using the registration and enrolment system up until the last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (drop deadline).

You may [withdraw from a course](#) using the registration and enrolment system after the drop deadline until the last day of class for the term associated with the course. When you withdraw from a course, the course remains on your transcript without a grade and is notated as 'W'. The withdrawal will not affect your grade point average or count towards the credits required for your degree.

Information on Plagiarism Detection

Turnitin text-matching software will be used for submission of the term paper in the Winter term.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is not taken. However, there is material discussed that cannot be gleaned from posted lecture notes. Attendance is therefore highly recommended.

Academic Integrity for Students

York university takes academic integrity very seriously, please visit [an overview of Academic Integrity at York University](#) from the Office of the Vice-President Academic.

It is recommended that you review Academic Integrity information [SPARK Academic Integrity modules](#). These modules explain principles of academic honesty.

The following links will assist you in gaining a better understanding of academic integrity and point you to resources at York that can help you improve your writing and research skills:

- [Information about the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty](#)
- [Online Tutorial on Academic Integrity](#)
- [Academic Honesty Quiz](#)
- [Beware! Says who? A pamphlet on how to avoid plagiarism](#)
- [Resources for students to help improve their writing and research skill](#)

Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

While all individuals are expected to satisfy the requirements of their program of study and to aspire to do so at a level of excellence, the university recognizes that persons with disabilities may require reasonable accommodation to enable them to do so. The university encourages students with disabilities to register with ***Student Accessibility Services (SAS)*** to discuss

their accommodation needs as early as possible in the term to establish the recommended academic accommodations that will be communicated to Course Directors as necessary. **Please let me know as early as possible in the term if you anticipate requiring academic accommodation so that we can discuss how to consider your accommodation needs within the context of this course.**

<https://accessibility.students.yorku.ca/>

Excerpt from Senate Policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

1. Pursuant to its commitment to sustaining an inclusive, equitable community in which all members are treated with respect and dignity, and consistent with applicable accessibility legislation, York University shall make reasonable and appropriate accommodations in order to promote the ability of students with disabilities to fulfill the academic requirements of their programs. This policy aims to eliminate systemic barriers to participation in academic activities by students with disabilities.

All students are expected to satisfy the essential learning outcomes of courses.

Accommodations shall be consistent with, support and preserve the academic integrity of the curriculum and the academic standards of courses and programs. For further information please refer to: [York University Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities Policy](#).

Course Materials Copyright Information:

These course materials are designed for use as part of the PSYC 4010 6.0C course at York University and are the property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. Third party copyrighted materials (such as book chapters, journal articles, music, videos, etc.) have either been licensed for use in this course or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian Copyright law.

Copying this material for distribution (e.g. uploading material to a commercial third-party website) may lead to a violation of Copyright law. [Intellectual Property Rights Statement](#)

Course Schedule:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Sept 9	Introduction
Sept 16	The Issue of Development
Sept 23	The Blank Slate
Sept 30	The Blank Slate Falls
Oct 7	Piagetian Theory
Oct 14	Fall Reading Week — No Class
Oct 21	Information Processing Approaches: Overlapping Waves and Dynamic Systems
Oct 28	The A-not-B Battleground
Nov 4	Neural Development
Nov 11	Development of Consciousness
Nov 18	Presentation Preparation - No Class
Nov 25	Presentations (12.5%)
Dec 2	Presentations (12.5%) and Last Fall Class
Dec 20	Fall Term Final Due (32.5%)
Jan 6	Prenatal Learning
Jan 13	Effect of Alcohol, Smoking, & Drugs on Development
Jan 20	Attentional Processing
Jan 27	Attention and Developmental Disabilities
Feb 3	Object Concept and Attentional Paradigms
Feb 7	Last Day to Withdraw Without Receiving a Grade
Feb 10	Object Perception & Unity
Feb 17	Winter Reading Week - No Class
Feb 24	Memory Development: Infants
Mar 3	Memory Development: Children
Mar 10	Suggestibility of Memory
Mar 17	Early Learning, Aggression and Media
Mar 24	Effects of Daycare
Mar 31	Term Paper Due (12.5%)
Apr 25	Winter Term Final Due (32.5%)