

## PSY312H5F – Children's Thinking: Cognitive Development in a Social World

### Online Synchronous

#### Course Delivery

This course will be delivered online synchronously using Zoom. Students are expected to attend live sessions to participate in class activities and discussions during class time. All sessions will be recorded for later viewing.

In addition to the lecture component of the course, you are expected to attend 2 practical meetings each week. **You must make sure you register on ACORN for one of the PRA sections.** PRA9101 meets Tuesdays and Thursday from 2-3pm. PRA9201 meets Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 2-3pm. **You must attend the section that you registered for** because you will be working with the same group of students each time. During the practical meetings, you will collaborate with your group on a major project for the course. Students are expected to have a computer with a mic, and ideally a camera, during the PRA sessions to collaborate actively with other students in the class.

Tests and the final exam will be time-limited and administered as Quercus quizzes.

**Lectures:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:00pm – 2:00pm, EST.

**Practical's:** Tuesdays and Thursday 2:00pm-3:00pm, EST. (P9101) **OR**  
Tuesdays and Wednesdays 2:00pm-3:00pm, EST. (P9201)

#### Learn Anywhere Guide for Students

<https://library.utm.utoronto.ca/students/quercus/learn-anywhere>

University of Toronto tech [requirements for online learning](#)

#### Contact Information

##### Course Instructor:

**Dr. Christine Burton**

email: [christine.burton@utoronto.ca](mailto:christine.burton@utoronto.ca)

##### Office hours via Zoom

Sign-up required during the following times:

Tues/Thurs 10-11 am

Wed 2-3 pm

##### Drop-in time:

Mon 12pm-1pm

##### Teaching Assistants:

**Lindsey Thurston**

[lindsey.thurston@utoronto.ca](mailto:lindsey.thurston@utoronto.ca)

**Tiana Simovic**

[tiana.simovic@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:tiana.simovic@mail.utoronto.ca)

The TAs will be available to meet virtually with students after the distribution of graded tests and assignments.

#### Course Description

This course examines human development in fundamental domains such as perception, memory, language, problem solving, and theory of mind through infancy and childhood. We will discuss theories and empirical evidence, with an emphasis on current experimental findings, and on how they address centuries-old debates surrounding the origin and nature of human knowledge.

**Prerequisites:** PSY201H5/equivalent, 210H5, 270H5

## Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course you should be able to:

- Describe influential theoretical approaches and historical debates concerning how we acquire knowledge
- Understand the qualitative and quantitative changes across various cognitive domains
- Apply what you know about qualitative and quantitative changes that occur broadly to the development of individual children
- Apply research findings to real-world applications
- Collaborate creatively with classmates
- Effectively communicate your knowledge using written work

## Reading Material

**Required:** All required readings will be posted on Quercus each week

**Recommended:** Croker, Steve (2012). *The Development of Cognition ebook*. Cengage Learning.

This book is an older text but it a great, easy to read resource for established theories and concepts.

## Course Evaluation

Individual work			Group work		
Topic summaries	See Quercus for ongoing due dates	2 x 6% = 12%	Brainstorming draft	May 11	3%
Midterm test	May 20 120 minutes	25%	Working notes of topic summary applications	Ongoing	12%
Final exam	TBA: June 17-19 120 minutes	25%	Participation	Ongoing	3%
			Dragon's playpen pitch	June 8 and 10	20%

## Test and Exam

The midterm test and final exam will be administered as Quercus quizzes. If you have a conflict with the midterm time (e.g. different time zone), please contact the instructor to set up an alternate test time. The exam will held during the exam period, as set by the registrar. The test and exam will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. The exam is not cumulative so will only cover material from after the midterm.

## Assignments

Throughout the term you will work individually and as part of a team toward one final project and presentation. Each group will choose a toy, tv show, book or children's event (the "product") to analyse with respect to an individual hypothetical child. Child profiles will be posted on Quercus and you will be able to sign up for a group based on the target child that interests you. You will work individually to write a summary that applies the lecture topics to your target child. **Each group member will be expected to write 2 summaries this term. Each summary is worth 6% each for a total of 12% of your final grade.**

You will work as a group to use the information from individuals to improve your product and create a presentation to pitch your product to the class (Dragon's Den style). Grades for this project will be based on your final presentation, how well your product is suited to your target child, and your individual contributions to the weekly practical meetings. This information will come from your presentation, your contributions to the working document plans (using Office365 tools), and your presence in the practical sessions. **Detailed information about this assignment is available on Quercus.**

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## Course Webpage

The website associated with this course is accessible via <http://q.utoronto.ca>

**Note:** You don't need to create a new login for Canvas; it already knows who you are. You just need your UTORid and password. This is the same login that gets you onto the wireless network with your laptop, and the same one that you use to check your email. If you're confused about your UTORid or don't remember your password, go to: <https://www.utorid.utoronto.ca/>

In order to access course material, monitor course information, and view your grades you must log into Canvas. If you have any general questions regarding Canvas, please visit the following help site: <https://library.utm.utoronto.ca/faculty/canvas>

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## IMPORTANT COURSE POLICIES \*\*PLEASE READ\*\*

### Email

The main source of communication in the course will be email. You can also send an email directly to me from your Inbox in Quercus/Canvas. Please include the course number (PSY312) in the subject line in all your emails about the course. **Please avoid sending me messages directly from Quercus/Canvas.** These messages always end up in my "other" folder so I may not get to the quickly.

**Make sure you check your notification settings in Quercus to ensure you will receive email and announcement notifications**

### Requests for Re-grading

Any requests to re-grade tests or experiment reports should be made in a timely fashion. Requests to re-grade term tests must be made before the next scheduled test or exam. Requests to re-grade experiment reports must be made within 1 week of the return of the graded report. **Please direct all requests for re-grading directly to the TA who marked your work.** If you are dissatisfied after meeting with the TA you may submit your work to the instructor. Keep in mind that if you submit your work to be re-graded, your grade could go up or down. This policy applies to work submitted to the instructor or the TAs.

### Missed Test Special Consideration Request Process

Students who miss a test due to circumstances beyond their control (e.g. illness or an accident) can request that the Department grant them special consideration. Students must present their case to the Department (NOT the Instructor) by submitting a request via the online Special Consideration Request form at: <https://utmapp.utm.utoronto.ca/SpecialRequest>.

**Important note:** Once the test/exam is available online and you're unable to write or have an approved request to miss, **DO NOT** at any point attempt to access the test/exam. If at any time you access the test/exam, you will **NOT** be able to submit a special consideration and/or your request will be refused.

If your request is approved by the department, a make-up test will be offered. You will receive an email when a make-up date has been arranged. The department will try to give 2-3 days notice of make-up date, however this is sometimes is not possible. **Be prepared for the make-up.**

### Extension of Time Special Consideration Request Process

Students who seek to be granted more time to complete their term work beyond the due date without penalty, owing to circumstances beyond their control (e.g., illness, or an accident), must do so by submitting a request **directly to the Instructor** for the period up to and including the last day of the term. The decision as to whether or not to apply a penalty for the specified period rests with the Instructor.

Students who seek to be granted more time to complete term work beyond the last day of the term must submit their request directly to the Department. This request covers the period following the last day of classes and ends the last day of the exam period. This is done by submitting a request via the online Special Consideration Request form at <https://utmapp.utm.utoronto.ca/SpecialRequest>. You are advised to seek advising by the departmental Undergraduate Counsellor prior to the deadline.

### **Supporting Documentation**

The University is temporarily suspending the need for a doctor's note or medical certificate for any absence from academic participation. However, you are required to use the Absence Declaration tool on ACORN found in the Profile and Settings menu to formally declare an absence from academic participation. The tool is to be used if you require consideration for missed academic work based on the procedures specific to our campus/department.

### **Missed Final Exam or Extension of Time beyond exam period**

Missed final exams or for extensions of time beyond the examination period you must submit a petition through the Office of the Registrar. <http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/registrar/current-students/petitions> and follow their procedures.

### **Penalties for Lateness**

A penalty of 5% per calendar day (i.e., including weekends and holidays, during which students are not able to submit term work) up to and including the last day of classes, will be applied by the Instructor. After the last day of classes, the penalty of 10% per calendar day will be applied by the Undergraduate Counsellor on behalf of the Department. No penalty will be assigned if request for special consideration, described above, was successful.

### **Academic Guidelines**

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have met all prerequisites listed in the UTM Calendar for this course. If you lack any prerequisites you WILL BE REMOVED from the course up until the last day to add a course. Further information about academic regulations, course withdrawal dates and credits can be found in the University of Toronto Mississauga Calendar at: <http://www.erin.utoronto.ca/regcal/>.

You are encouraged to read this material. If you run into trouble and need advice about studying, preparing for exams, note taking or time management, free workshops and advice are available from the Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre at 905-828-5406.

### **AccessAbility Services**

The University provides academic accommodations for students with disabilities in accordance with the terms of the Ontario Human Rights Code. This occurs through a collaborative process that acknowledges a collective obligation to develop an accessible learning environment that both meets the needs of students and preserves the essential academic requirements of the University's courses and programs. Students requiring academic accommodations for learning, physical, sensory, or mental health disabilities or medical conditions should contact the AccessAbility Office (2037B Davis Building), 905-828-3847. <http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/accessability/>

### **Privacy and Copyright Disclaimer**

#### ***Notice of video recording and sharing (Download permissible; re-use prohibited)***

This course, including your participation, will be recorded on video and will be available to students in the course for viewing remotely and after each session. Course videos and materials belong to your instructor, the University, and/or other source depending on the specific facts of each situation, and are protected by copyright. In this course, you are permitted to download session videos and materials for your own academic use, but you should not copy, share, or use them for any other purpose without the explicit permission of the instructor. For questions about recording and use of videos in which you appear please contact your instructor.

Lectures and course materials prepared by the instructor are considered by the University to be an instructor's intellectual property covered by the Copyright Act, RSC 1985, c C-42. Course materials such as PowerPoint slides and lecture recordings are made available to you for your own study purposes. These materials cannot be shared outside of the class or "published" in any way. Posting recordings or slides to other websites without the express permission of the instructor will constitute copyright infringement.

## **Academic Honesty and Plagiarism**

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Toronto Mississauga is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, UTM treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously.

The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters outlines behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the process for addressing academic offences. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

### In papers and assignments:

1. Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
2. Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
3. Making up sources or facts.
4. Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment.

### On tests and exams:

1. Using or possessing unauthorized aids.
2. Looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test.
3. Misrepresenting your identity.

### In academic work:

1. Falsifying institutional documents or grades.
2. Falsifying or altering any documentation required, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes.

With regard to remote learning and online courses, UTM wishes to remind students that they are expected to adhere to **the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters** regardless of the course delivery method. By offering students the opportunity to learn remotely, UTM expects that students will maintain the same academic honesty and integrity that they would in a classroom setting. Potential academic offences in a digital context include, but are not limited to:

### Remote assessments:

1. Accessing unauthorized resources (search engines, chat rooms, Reddit, etc.) for assessments.
2. Using technological aids (e.g. software) beyond what is listed as permitted in an assessment.
3. Posting test, essay, or exam questions to message boards or social media.
4. Creating, accessing, and sharing assessment questions and answers in virtual "course groups."
5. Working collaboratively, in-person or online, with others on assessments that are expected to be completed individually.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources.

## **Academic Rights**

You, as a student at UTM, have the right to:

- Receive a syllabus by the first day of class.
- Rely upon a syllabus once a course is started. An instructor may only change marks' assignments by following the University Assessment and Grading Practices Policy provision 1.3.
- Refuse to use turnitin.com (you must be offered an alternative form of submission).
- Have access to your instructor for consultation during a course or follow up with the department chair if the instructor is unavailable.
- Ask the person who marked your term work for a re-evaluation if you feel it was not fairly graded. You have up to one month from the date of return of the item to inquire about the mark. If you are not satisfied with a re-evaluation, you may appeal to the instructor in charge of the course if the instructor did not mark the work. If your work is remarked, you must accept the resulting mark. You may only appeal a mark beyond the instructor if the term work was worth at least 20% of the course mark.
- Receive at least one significant mark (15% for H courses, 25% for Y courses) before the last day you can drop a course for H courses, and the last day of classes in the first week of January for Y courses taught in the Fall/Winter terms.
- Submit handwritten essays so long as they are neatly written.
- Have no assignment worth 100% of your final grade.
- Not have a term test worth more than 25% in the last two weeks of class.
- Retain intellectual property rights to your research.
- Receive all your assignments once graded.
- View your final exams. To see a final exam, you must submit an online Exam Reproduction Request within 6 months of the exam. There is a small non-refundable fee.
- Privacy of your final grades.
- Arrange for representation from Downtown Legal Services (DLS), a representative from the UTM Students' Union (UTMSU), and/or other forms of support if you are charged with an academic offence.

## **Equity Statement**

The University of Toronto is committed to equity and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect. As a course instructor, I will neither condone nor tolerate behaviour that undermines the dignity or self-esteem of any individual in this course and wish to be alerted to any attempt to create an intimidating or hostile environment. It is our collective responsibility to create a space that is inclusive and welcomes discussion. Discrimination, harassment and hate speech will not be tolerated. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns you may contact the UTM Equity and Diversity officer at [edo.utm@utoronto.ca](mailto:edo.utm@utoronto.ca) or the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union Vice President Equity at [vpequity@utmsu.ca](mailto:vpequity@utmsu.ca).

## Course Outline

Links to **required readings** will be posted each week on Quercus; recommended readings from the textbook are listed here.

Date	Topic	Recommended reading
May 4	Introduction and themes	Chapter 1
May 6	Historical and theoretical frameworks	Chapter 1
May 11	The developing brain and cognitive neuroscience	
May 13	Perception	Chapter 2
May 18	Memory	Chapter 3
May 20	<b>Midterm test</b>	
May 25	Language	Chapter 4
May 27	Social cognition	Chapter 5
June 1	Knowledge	Chapter 7
June 3	Reasoning and executive function	Chapter 6
June 8	Pitch Day	
June 10	Pitch Day	