

PSY312H5S – Cognitive Development

Thursday 12:00pm – 3:00pm

Room Location: DV 1142 (Davis Building)

Contact Information

Dr. Samuel Ronfard

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Office Hours: Mondays, 1 to 2 pm

Location: CCT 4059

Teaching Assistant:

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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

Reading Material

There are no required textbooks for this course.

If you want a textbook recommendation for your own erudition, email me.

Selected research articles and chapters will be posted on Quercus.

Course Evaluation

| Exams & Assignments | Date | % |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|----|
| Submitted Test Question | 8 times (see Course Outline) | 4 |
| In class quiz | 8 times (see Course Outline) | 8 |
| QUALMRI #1 | 2/6/20 | 6 |
| Mid-term Assessment | 2/13/20 | 25 |
| Child/Adult Interview | 2/27/20 | 10 |
| QUALMRI #2 | 3/12/20 | 6 |
| Group Toy Project + Presentation | 03/26/20 | 16 |
| Final Assessment | 04/02/20 | 25 |

Submitted test questions: You will be asked to create and submit a test question for one of the readings you were asked to complete that week.

In class quiz: These very short in class quizzes will be given at the start of class. You will be asked to answer 2 to 3 questions about the readings assigned for that class.

Mid- and final term test: The exams will be a mixture of multiple-choice and short-answer questions. The material covered on the exams will include material from lectures, videos, and assigned articles. These exams may include material not covered in class but contained in the articles, so it is essential that you complete the assigned reading. Exams may also include material covered in class, but not contained in the assigned reading, so it is essential that you attend class. The final exam is cumulative and it will cover all the materials discussed in the course.

Child / Adult Interview: You will complete the “Animism” or “Theory of Mind” interview with one preschool child (3 to 6 years-old) or with an adult, record their answers, score the assessment, interpret the score, and reflect on your experience.

QuALMRI Papers: For each 2-3 page paper, you will summarize the research question(s), hypotheses of the article, the method and the results, and the author’s conclusions. It is important to summarize the articles in your own words--don’t plagiarize or use direct quotes; instead, paraphrase. You will also be asked to critically evaluate the conclusions of the authors (Were the conclusions warranted given the findings? Do the authors overstate things?). We will go over the QuALMRI method in class and practice it.

Group Toy Project + Presentation: Groups will design a toy for infants, toddlers, or preschoolers. The design of the toy will need to be supported by research on infants’, toddlers’, or preschoolers’ perceptual, social, and cognitive abilities. Groups will “build” the toy (either physically or graphically) and try to sell it the class (in a presentation). Grades are based on the quality of the toy, its relation to the target child’s abilities, the group’s presentation, and each individual’s contribution to the group. We will assign individuals to group through a random process.

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/>

IMPORTANT COURSE POLICIES **PLEASE READ**

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>.

Students are to submit original supporting documentation (e.g., medical certificates, verification of extenuating circumstances form, etc.) to the Psychology Academic Counselor or drop it in the drop box located outside the Psychology office, Deerfield Hall, 4th Floor. Students have up-to one week from the date of the missed test to submit request. Late submissions will NOT be considered without a letter of explanation specifying and documenting the reasons for the lateness.

Medical certificates or physician's notes must be completed by the Physician and MUST include the statement "This Student [name] was unable to write the test on [date(s)] for medical reasons". This documentation must show that the physician was consulted within one the day of the missed term test. A statement merely acknowledging a report of illness made by the student to the physician is NOT acceptable. For further information on this procedure please see: <http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/psychology/undergraduate-studies/missed-testslate-submissions>

If you missed your test/assignment deadline for a reason connected to your registered disability, please be advised that the department will accept documentation supplied by the UTM AccessAbility Resource Centre.

IMPORTANT: The Department of Psychology verifies the authenticity of medical certificates by contacting medical offices. Students are NOT to make any changes or alteration to completed medical certificates. Students who submit forged or altered documentation are subject to severe academic penalties.

If your request is approved by the department, the value of the mid-term will be redistributed to the final test. If you miss the final test and 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 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.**

Original supporting documentation (e.g., medical certificates, verification of extenuating circumstances form, etc.) must be submitted to the Psychology Academic Counselor or dropped off in the drop box located outside the Psychology office Deerfield Hall, 4th Floor. Students are expected to submit requests to the Department before the last day of the term, unless demonstrably serious reasons prevent them from doing so. In the event of an illness, medical certificates or doctor's notes must confirm that student was ill on the due date of the

assignment (for a one-day extension). For a longer extension, documentation must specify the full duration during which academic work could not be carried out.

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>

Penalties for Lateness

A penalty of 10% per calendar day (i.e., including week-ends 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

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/>

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Honesty and fairness are considered fundamental to the university's mission, and, as a result, all those who violate those principles are dealt with as if they were damaging the integrity of the university itself. When students are suspected of cheating or a similar academic offence, they are typically surprised at how formally and seriously the matter is dealt with -- and how severe the consequences can be if it is determined that cheating did occur. The University of Toronto treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. Please take the time to review the Academic Integrity website: <http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/academic-integrity/students>.

- Common trends in academic offences:
- Plagiarizing/concocted references
- Collaboration/unauthorized assistance
- Purchasing work
- Recycling work - "double-dipping"
- Resubmitting of altered work for re-grading
- Electronic devices (cell phones) or any unauthorized aids
- Altering medical certificates and UofT documents

From the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters: "It shall be an offence for a student to knowingly: represent as one's own any idea or expression of an idea or work of another in any academic examination or

term test or in connection with any other form of academic work, i.e. to commit plagiarism. Wherever in the Code an offence is described as depending on "knowing", the offence shall likewise be deemed to have been committed if the person ought reasonably to have known." All students must refer to this website to obtain information on what constitutes plagiarism. <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>. If questions arise after reading the material on the website, consult your instructor.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated.

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 or the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union Vice President Equity at vpequity@utmsu.ca.

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 25% or more 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.

| Course Outline | | | |
|----------------|--|-------------------------|---|
| Date | Topic | Readings | Assignment Due |
| 1/9/20 | Introduction | <i>Refer to Quercus</i> | |
| 1/16/20 | Constructivism (Then and Now) Quiz | <i>Refer to Quercus</i> | Submit Test Question |
| 1/23/20 | Information-Processing Theories of Development Quiz | <i>Refer to Quercus</i> | Submit Test Question |
| 1/30/20 | Socio-Cultural Theories of Development Quiz | <i>Refer to Quercus</i> | Submit Test Question |
| 2/6/20 | Perceptual Development Quiz | <i>Refer to Quercus</i> | QUALMRI #1 Submit Test Question |
| 2/13/20 | Mid-Term Assessment | | Mid-Term Assessment |
| 2/20/20 | Reading Week (NO CLASS) | | |
| 2/27/20 | Language Development Quiz | <i>Refer to Quercus</i> | Child / Adult Interview Submit Test Question |
| 3/5/20 | Memory Development Quiz | <i>Refer to Quercus</i> | Submit Test Question |
| 3/12/20 | Conceptual Development Quiz | <i>Refer to Quercus</i> | QUALMRI #2 Submit Test Question |
| 3/19/20 | Development of Social Cognition Quiz | <i>Refer to Quercus</i> | Submit Test Question |
| 3/26/20 | Group Toy Presentation | <i>Refer to Quercus</i> | Group Toy Presentation |
| 4/2/20 | Final Test | | Final Test |