

PSY319H5 S – Developmental Psychology Laboratory

Thursday 12:00pm – 3:00pm

Room Location: DV 1158B

Contact Information

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Course Description

Aims: This course is designed to (1) familiarize students with research methods used to study psychological issues from a developmental perspective, and (2) provide hands-on experience in collecting and analyzing data and reporting the results. Students will participate in two research projects that use different methods. Students will also be required to master an elementary level of data analysis, both by hand and with statistical software.

Classes: Attendance is mandatory. Classroom time is devoted to discussion of developmental research (design, methods, issues), assigned readings, class research projects, and data analysis. Students are expected to participate actively in these discussions. Assigned readings must be read *before* class. Students will need to have additional time for data collection (e.g., testing children), library research, data analysis, and other course-related activities.

Tests: Tests will include some combination of short-answer questions, definitions, and multiple-choice questions. You will be tested on the material from the text (regardless of whether or not it was discussed in class) and on the material presented in class (including data analysis). Term tests are on January 26, February 16, and March 16 at the beginning of the class.

Data Analyses: These assignments are relatively short and require you to conduct statistical analyses by hand and on the computer.

Research Reports: Both reports require reading the related literature, data analysis, and preparation of an APA-style manuscript. The research reports represent the largest proportion of the course grade (45%) and should be treated accordingly. For example, the writing process should be started well in advance of the due date and include a considerable amount of re-writing and self-editing. Students who write their reports in the day or two before the due date should expect a very low grade. You are encouraged to submit preliminary drafts to the teaching assistant for comments/suggestions.

Report 1. You have a choice of conducting a library/archival study or an observational study of an infant. The library-archival study involves a content analysis of a socially relevant issue (e.g., racism, sexism) in children's books or films, which will necessitate development of a disciplined method for selecting materials, a coding scheme, tests of inter-observer reliability, and data analysis. The observational study involves detailed examination of selected aspects of an infant's motor, social, or language skills over a 6-week period and requires weekly visits to the home of an infant. Both options require submission of a proposal (Feb. 4) and presentation of a progress report (March 4 or 11).

Your proposal should be 2-3 pages and should include the following:

1. Your research question, motivated by a partial review of the literature
2. How you will "ask" your research question(s) in your study (selection of material, operational definitions, reliability, etc.)
3. How you will "answer" your questions (data analysis, expected findings, etc.)

Report 2: We will collect data from children who will be tested at their homes or in the professor's or teaching assistant's lab. Each student will be required to test 3-5 children, or watch them being tested. Data from all students will be combined to form one large data set.

Reading Material

Text: Miller, S. A. (2013). *Developmental Research Methods* (4th ed.). Thousand Oaks: Sage.

Course Evaluation

1. Tests on research design/methodology/statistics (3 X 10%)	30%
2. Research reports:	
i. Library/Archival or Observational Study	20%
ii. Laboratory Study	20%
3. Data analysis assignments (4 X 5%)	20%
4. Class presentation/Participation/Attendance	10%

Course Webpage

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

Note: You don't need to create a new login for Blackboard; 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 Blackboard. If you have any general questions regarding Blackboard, please visit the following help site:

<http://www.portalinfo.utoronto.ca/students.htm>

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, accident reports, 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, your grade on the missed test will be estimated from your performance on the other tests.

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, accident reports, 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.

Course Outline

Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments/Tests/Reports
Jan. 5	Introduction, Research Ethics, Chi-Square Tests	--	--
Jan. 12	Discussion of Readings, <i>t</i> -Tests/Correlation	Chs. 1, 2, 9 (pp. 153-168), 10	Data Assignment 1 due
Jan. 19	Discussion of Readings, APA Format	Chs. 3, 11	Data Assignment 2 due
Jan. 26	ANOVA	Ch. 9 (pp. 168-175)	Test 1
Feb. 2	Discussion of Readings	Chs. 4-5	Data Assignment 3 due; Proposal for Report 1 due Friday Feb. 3, 5:00 PM
Feb. 9	Discussion of Readings Multiple Regression	Chs. 6-8	
Feb. 16	Discussion of Readings	Chs. 12-13	Test 2
Feb. 23	Reading Week		
March 2	Progress Reports Discussion of Readings	Ch. 14	Data Assignment 4 Due
March 9	Progress Reports		Report 1 due Friday March 10, 5:00 PM
March 16	Class Discussion (if required)	--	Test 3
March 23	Class Discussion (if required)	--	
March 30	--		Report 2 due 5:00 PM