Course Director: Dr. Nicholas J. Cepeda
Office: BSB 242
Office Hours: after class and by appointment
Email: ncepeda@yorku.ca (put in subject header: PSYC 4010)
Phone: 416-736-2100 x33266 (email or office hours preferred)

Secretary: Barbara Thurston
Office: BSB 283
Office Hours: M-F 9-5
Email: bthurst@yorku.ca (put in subject header: Your Name PSYC 4010 Seminar in Developmental Psychology)
Phone: 416-736-2100 x66253

Prerequisites: AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 1010 6.00 or AK/HH/PSYC 2410 6.00, with a minimum grade of C; AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 2030 3.00 or AK/HH/PSYC 2530 3.00; one of AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 2021 3.00, AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 2020 6.00, AK/HH/PSYC 2510 3.00; AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 2110 3.00 or AK/HH/PSYC 3240 3.00.
Course credit exclusions: AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 4010 3.00, AK/PSYC 4140 3.00 (prior to Summer 2002), GL/PSYC 4510 3.00.

Course Website: http://www.yorku.ca/ncepeda/psyc4010/
This website contains the current course syllabus, reading assignments, and other class-related information. Course updates and office hour changes will be posted online, as needed.

Course Objectives:
You will learn to examine psychological principles and theories, in order to determine if, how, and when they can be applied to developmental populations. You will learn to critically evaluate theories, analyze the validity of experimental methods and data analysis techniques, and assess the usefulness of principles within specific developmental contexts. Principles will come from several sub-areas of developmental psychology, including cognitive, social, clinical, biological, and educational fields.

Two things are critical, if you desire to earn an A in this course: attend class every week, and do the assigned reading before coming to class. A key part of this class is student- and teacher-led discussions of the assigned readings. These discussions provide much of your learning in the course and opportunities to learn from your peers and better assimilate reading material.

Grading:
18% Reading Comments (1% of grade from each of 18 sets of four comments)
6% Presenter and Discussant Feedback (0.33% of grade from each of 18 critiques)
20% Presentation
20% Research Report 1
20% Research Report 2
16% Participation
Conversion of Percents to Letter Grades:

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Final grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grade distribution profiles. Typically, there will be a minimum of 50 percent As and Bs and a maximum of 10 percent Es and Fs.

Readings:
Weekly readings will be assigned, mostly consisting of journal articles. Readings must be completed prior to attending class. There is no pre-printed course packet, although you may print the articles and create your own. You should bring paper or electronic copies of readings to class, for use during discussions. I can provide the readings to you if you bring a flash drive.

Participation:
Participation will be determined at the sole discretion of the Course Director, based on a personal assessment of your contribution to class discussions and attendance records. If you do not participate in class each week, you will likely receive a poor assessment. Coming to office hours and asking good questions / making good comments during class are likely to improve your participation grade.

Late Assignments:
Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Printers not working, computers crashing, misreading the assignment deadlines, etc. are not acceptable reasons to hand in an assignment late.

If you turn in an assignment 1 min to 24 hours late, 10% will be taken off; 24 to 72 hours late, 20% will be taken off; up to one week late, 30% will be taken off; up to two weeks late, 40% will be taken off. As soon as they are completed, please turn in late paper and reading comment assignments via email (cc yourself). Please also turn in a paper copy of the assignment the next class period, noting on the first page the date and time you emailed the assignment.

Missing a presentation deadline will result in a 30% grade reduction for that part of the assignment. You are expected to make up the missed assignment the next class period, unless otherwise indicated by the course director.

It is your responsibility to begin working on assignments prior to the deadline. Non-penalized extensions related to illness or family emergencies will only be granted if the situation warrants an extension, at the sole discretion of the instructor. If you wish to avoid a late assignment penalty, the delay must be documented. Late assignments due to non-medical circumstances must be supported by appropriate documentation—death certificates, obituary notices, automobile accident reports, airline/train/bus tickets/receipts for emergency travel, etc. Late assignments due to medical circumstances must be supported by an Attending Physician's

Feedback:
I want you to succeed in this course! You are encouraged to see me during office hours if you have questions about assignments or your performance in the course, or if you have comments about how the course is being run. I’m also happy to chat about other educational issues, such as whether to attend graduate school, how to improve your writing skills, or how to lead an effective class discussion.

Contesting Grades:
If you wish to contest a grade, you must do so in writing. There is a 24-hour waiting period before grade contest requests will be accepted, following the point when you receive your grade. You are expected to reflect on your grade and your work during this period, as well as prepare a strong justification for an adjusted grade. All decisions about contested marks are final; you may not contest the same mark twice. Therefore, it is in your best interest to carefully consider and outline exactly why you think a grade adjustment is justified.

Cheating:
Don’t cheat! Cheating and plagiarism not only impair your learning, but also are penalized by the university. If you cheat, you may receive a failing grade for the assignment or the course, or other actions may be taken against you. For university policy on cheating, see:
http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity/students/index.htm
http://www.arts.yorku.ca/faculty_and_staff/policies_and_procedures_for_faculty/academic_honesty_students.php

General Information:
Important information for students regarding the Ethics Review process, Access/Disability, Academic Honesty/Integrity, Student Conduct, and Religious Observance Days is available on the CCAS webpage (see Reports, Initiatives, Documents):
http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/senate_cte_main_pages/ccas.htm

Writing Help:
If you would like assistance with writing your paper, please go to the writing department, http://www.yorku.ca/laps/writ/. Online writing help websites are not acceptable resources. I welcome your requests for help with writing. For APA style, please purchase the APA manual or see http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/.