

HH/PSYC 4010B 6.0: Seminar in Developmental Psychology (York University)  
Fall 2014 – Winter 2015  
Thurs. 11:30am-2:30pm, VC 114

**Course Director:** Dr. Melody Wiseheart

Office: BSB 242

Office Hours: after class and by appointment

Email: [ncepeda@yorku.ca](mailto:ncepeda@yorku.ca) (put in subject header: PSYC 4010)

Phone: 416-736-2100 x33266 (do not use)

**Course Objectives:**

In the context of lifespan developmental populations, you will learn to critically evaluate theories, analyze the validity of experimental methods and data analysis techniques, and create a novel line of research. You will learn to present in front of peers and evaluate ideas presented by your peers, and write scientific papers and evaluate the writing of your peers.

**Grading:**

10% Attendance (0.5% of grade per class, with wiggle room)

10% Instructor Evaluation of Review Article Discussion

10% Instructor Evaluation of Empirical Article Discussion

10% Instructor Evaluation of Paper Outline

15% Feedback on Peers' Outlines (minimum of three peer papers)

15% Feedback on Peers' Paper Drafts (minimum of three peer papers)

20% Instructor Evaluation of Final Paper

10% Overall Quality of Work; Motivation and Commitment (instructor's discretion)

**Course Websites:**

<http://www.yorku.ca/ncepeda/psyc4010/>

This website contains the course syllabus, assignment descriptions, and grading rubrics.

<https://mwcourses.wikidot.com/>

This website allows you to post readings and assignments and provide feedback to peers. Course updates will be posted on the wiki, as needed. For the password, please email the instructor.

**Writing Help:**

If you would like professional assistance while writing your paper, please talk to the writing department, <http://www.yorku.ca/laps/writ/>. Online writing help websites are **not** an acceptable resource. 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/>.

**Library Skills:**

For general assistance using the library, see <http://www.library.yorku.ca/cms/undergraduate/>. If you need help locating research articles, the psycinfo database and Google Scholar (<http://scholar.google.com/>) provide excellent search tools. A tutorial on how to locate and download articles is at <http://researchguides.library.yorku.ca/journalarticles>.

**General Help:**

Many useful forms and tutorials are available on the undergraduate tab of the psychology website: <http://psyc.info.yorku.ca/>

## **Weekly Schedule:**

*Instructor-led presentation and discussion*

*Student-led activity*

**(due date or important deadline)**

Sep 11: *How to read and write research articles*

Sep 18: *Critical thinking theories and techniques*

**(Sep 22: Last day to enroll in course)**

Sep 25: Peer discussion to develop paper topics in small groups

Oct 2: Review Paper Discussions (four per day)

Oct 9: Review Paper Discussions (four per day)

Oct 16: Review Paper Discussions (four per day)

Oct 23: *Designing strong studies*; Peer paper topics discussion in small groups

**(Oct 29-Nov 2: Co-curricular days)**

Nov 6: Peer discussion to design study methodology in small groups

Nov 13: Review Paper Discussions (four per day)

Nov 20: Review Paper Discussions (four per day)

Nov 27: Review Paper Discussions (four per day)

Dec 4: *How to evaluate a paper* **(Paper outline due)**

**(Dec 5: Last day to submit term work)**

Jan 8: Peer outline feedback discussion in small groups **(Feedback on paper outline due)**

Jan 15: *Learning about developmental research from experts*

Jan 22: Empirical Paper Discussions (four per day)

Jan 29: Empirical Paper Discussions (four per day)

Feb 5: Empirical Paper Discussions (four per day)

Feb 12: *Learning about developmental research from experts* **(Paper draft due)**

**(Feb 6: 30% of final grade due; last day to drop course without receiving a grade)**

**(Feb 14-20: Reading week)**

Feb 26: Peer paper feedback discussion in small groups **(Feedback on paper draft due)**

Mar 5: *Learning about developmental research from experts*

Mar 12: Empirical Paper Discussions (four per day)

Mar 19: Empirical Paper Discussions (four per day)

Mar 26: Empirical Paper Discussions (four per day)

Apr 2: *Learning about developmental research from experts* **(Final paper due)**

**(Apr 6: Last day to submit term work)**

**Late Assignments:**

Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Printers not working, computers crashing, misreading the assignment deadlines, wiki page locks, etc. are not acceptable reasons to hand in an assignment late. Regularly back up your work, preferably stored away from your computer! Flash drives can fail catastrophically, so make a second copy.

If you turn in an assignment 10 min to 24 hours late, 10% will be taken off; 24 to 72 hours late, 20%; up to one week late, 30%; up to two weeks late, 50%. As soon as they are completed, please turn in the late assignment. I will use course wiki date and time stamps to discern when an assignment was completed.

Missing a presentation or discussion deadline will result in a 50% grade reduction for that 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. Airline/train/bus tickets/receipts must indicate destination, departure, and return dates. Late assignments due to medical circumstances must be supported by an Attending Physician's Statement from the Office of the Registrar. The Attending Physician's Statement can be downloaded from <http://psyc.info.yorku.ca/>. Please provide documentation within two weeks of a missed assignment.

**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 talk about other educational issues, such as whether to attend graduate school and how to improve your writing skills.

**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.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=69>

**Secretary:** Barbara Thurston

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Office Hours: M-F 9-5

Email: bthurst@yorku.ca (put in subject header: Your Name PSYC 4010 Seminar in Developmental Psychology)

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**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.

**Conversion of Percents to Letter Grades:**

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point	Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point
90-100	A+	9	60-64	C	4
80-89	A	8	55-59	D+	3
75-79	B+	7	50-54	D	2
70-74	B	6	48-49	E	1
65-69	C+	5	0-47	F	0

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.