

HH/PSYC 4010B 6.0: Seminar in Developmental Psychology (York University)  
Fall 2015 – Winter 2016  
Thurs. 11:30am-2:30pm, MC 109

**Course Director:** Dr. Melody Wiseheart

Office: BSB 242

Office Hours: after class and by appointment

Email: melodywiseheart@gmail.com (put in subject header: PSYC 4010)

**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)

20% Instructor Evaluation of Paper Draft

10% Quality of Feedback on Peers' Paper Drafts (five peer papers)

20% Instructor Evaluation of Final Paper

10% Quality of Feedback on Peers' Final Papers (five peer papers)

10% Quality of Participation in Class Discussions

10% Quality of Contributions to Paper Reading and Writing Assignment

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:**

Sep 16: Introduction to the course

Sep 23: How to read research papers

Sep 30: Strategic reading skills

Oct 7: Reading and writing review papers

Oct 14: Class time to develop a strategy for completing the paper reading and writing assignment

Oct 21: Critical thinking

Oct 28: Critical thinking

Nov 4: Peer discussion to develop paper topics in small groups

Nov 11: Positive psychology

Nov 18: Attachment

Nov 25: Attachment (**Paper reading and writing assignment due**)

Dec 2: Peer discussion to develop methodology in small groups

Jan 6: Identity formation (**Paper draft due**)

Jan 13: Identity formation

Jan 20: Sexuality (**Feedback on paper draft due**)

Jan 27: Ethics

Feb 3: Self-esteem

Feb 10: Self-esteem

Feb 24: Effortful control

Mar 2: LGBT experiences (**Final paper due**)

Mar 9: Body image and eating disorders

Mar 16: Motivation (**Feedback on final paper due**)

Mar 23: Compassion

Mar 30: Lovingkindness meditation

**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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**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.