

HH/PSYC 4010M 3.0: Seminar in Developmental Psychology (York University)
Winter 2014
Tues. 11:30am-2:30pm, FC110

Course Director: Dr. Melody Wiseheart

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 (rarely monitored)

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)

20% Instructor Evaluation of First Paper Draft

10% Providing Feedback on Peers' First Paper Drafts (2.5% for each of four papers)

20% Instructor Evaluation of Second Paper Draft

10% Providing Feedback on Peers' Second Paper Drafts (2.5% for each of four papers)

20% Instructor Evaluation of Final Paper

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

Grading Rubrics:

These rubrics are intended to help you design effective presentations, discussions, and papers, and provide meaningful feedback to peers. Available on the course website.

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

This website contains the current course syllabus and class-related information. Course updates will be posted online, as needed.

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>.

Weekly Schedule:

Instructor-led presentation and discussion

Student-led activity

(due date or important deadline)

(Jan 19: Last day to enroll in course)

Jan 21: *Critical thinking theories and techniques* & Paper topic brainstorming session as a full class

Jan 28: Peer discussion to help develop paper topics in small groups

Feb 4: *Designing strong studies* & Peer discussion to help design study methodology in small groups

Feb 11: *How to evaluate a paper* **(First paper draft due to instructor and four peers)**

(Feb 15-21: Reading week)

Feb 25: Peer paper feedback discussion in small groups **(Feedback on paper draft 1 due to instructor and peers; make a second copy for the instructor!)**

Mar 4: Small group discussion of draft 1 revisions & Individual meetings with instructor

(Mar 7: 30% of final grade due; last day to drop course without receiving a grade)

Mar 11: *Learning about developmental research from experts* **(Second paper draft due to instructor and four peers)**

Mar 18: Group discussion of research articles, to be assigned

Mar 25: Peer paper feedback discussion in small groups **(Feedback on paper draft 2 due to instructor and peers; make a second copy for the instructor!)**

Apr 1: *Course evaluation discussion* **(Final paper due to course director)**

(Apr 4: 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, etc. are not acceptable reasons to hand in an assignment late. Regularly back up your work, preferably stored away from your computer!

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 late assignment via email (cc yourself). Please also turn in a paper copy of the assignment the next class period.

Missing a presentation 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://www.registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/petitions/attending_physician_statement.pdf

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>
http://www.arts.yorku.ca/faculty_and_staff/policies_and_procedures_for_faculty/academic_honesty_students.php

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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.

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.