PSY 335: Experimental Psychology: Child Development

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The Graduate Center, CUNY

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Office Hours: by appointment Class Hours: Tue and Thursday: 9:00-3:35PM

Course Description

4 class hours, 4 lab hours; 6 credits
This laboratory course introduces basic findings and techniques in the study of developmental psychology. It will review all phases of research including research design, ethics, data collection, analysis, and presentation, with a specific focus on current methods used to study the psychological development of children. In the laboratory, students will design and complete group research projects illustrative of the major topics covered, culminating in APA-style research papers.

Prerequisites:

PSY 242 Developmental Psychology
PSY 266 Statistics

Course Objectives

The primary goal of this course is to give you hands-on experience with various methods used for studying developmental psychology. First, you will learn how psychologists study children at various points in development and how changes in their behavior are measured and documented. Many research methods and terms overlap with other areas of psychology, but some techniques were devised specifically to address developmental issues or to obtain data from noncompliant, nonverbal subjects. Second, you will learn to think about children'Žs behavior using the tools of the trade. You will learn to analyze data that you have coded and contributed to the class. You will learn to interpret your results and draw conclusions about child development. Third, you will learn to write an APA-style manuscript with the course culminating in a journal-style research paper. Finally, you will acquire technical and practical skills that you can apply in other pursuits (i.e., critical thinking, collaboration, oral and written presentation skills).

Course Materials

- Textbook: Passer, M. *Research Methods: Concepts and Connections* (2nd Edition)

- Other reading materials will be posted on blackboard

Letter Grade Distribution

>= 158	A	124 - 134	C
153 - 157	A-	119 - 123	C-
148 - 156	B+	114 - 118	D+
141 - 147	B	107 - 113	D
136 - 140	B-	102 - 106	D-
130 - 135	C+	<= 101	F

Grading Policy

I reserve the right to curve the scale dependent on overall class scores at the end of the semester.

- **10%** Classwork (total 12x10 = 120)

- **10%** Group Presentation (Group)

- **10%** Student Led Discussion (Group)

- **10%** Final Presentation (Group)

- **20%** Final Research Project (Group)

Total 170

Attendance and Participation

- Please attend classes on time and finish required readings before class.

- Since all the classwork are submitted during class, missing one class will effect your final grade.

Student Led Discussion

- 2 students form a group to lead a class-wide discussion

- The discussion leaders need to prepare several questions related to that day's lecture and classwork to prepare the students to do the classwork

- The discussion leaders should discuss with the instructor before hand about dicussion outline. The instructor will provide some help.

Group Presentation

- Each group consists of 2 people and the presentation should last no more than 20 minutes.

- The group presentation is going to introduce some extended materials on that day's topic. The presenters should introduce the concept to the class.

- The presenters should also cover the paper that is related to the presentation topic.

Final Project

- Final project is an individual project. Each student needs to turn in their own final paper.

- Since we are not going to collect data for this course, the final project is a research proposal, consists of introduction, methodology, proposed data analysis, anticipated results and discussion. All of the parts will be drafted as part of classwork.

- The final project can also be a corpus analysis, since we are going to learn to analyze corpus data too.

- The deadline to submit the final project is 7/18 in class. The lab session of the class will be dedicated to finalizing the final draft.

- In the last class, everyone needs to give a final presentation of their project.

College Policies

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

Qualified students with disabilities will be provided reasonable academic accommodations if determined eligible by the Center for Student Accessibility. Prior to granting disability accommodations in this course, the instructor must receive written verification of students eligibility from the Center for Student Accessibility, which is located in 1P-101. It is the students responsibility to initiate contact with the Center for Student Accessibility staff and to follow the established procedures for having the accommodation notice sent to the instructor. To learn more about the accommodations and services that are available, please contact Center for Student Accessibility 718-982-2510 Center for the Arts (1P), Room 101 CSA@csi.cuny.edu

Policies for Dishonorable Conduct/Cheating:

Academic dishonesty includes cheating and plagiarism. This can consist of (1) copying an- swers from another studentâĂŹs exam, (2) copying ideas or words from another studentâĂŹs pa- per, (3) copying ideas or words from a published source, including websites, without ap- propriate citation, and 4) using a cell phone or other method to get assistance on a quiz or exam. Students who cheat or plagiarize will have consequences ranging from receiving no points on the assignment/test to being suspended from CSI (with acknowledgement that you cheated on your permanent record). In all cases, the Psychology department chair will be alerted about the offense and a formal report will be reported to the Dean of Student Af- fairs.Please see CUNYs policy on Academic Integrity: http://web.cuny.edu/academics/info-central/policies/academic-integrity.pdf

Other CSI Resources:

The Counseling Center
The Counseling Center provides individual and group counseling for students of the Col- lege of Staten Island. We offer personal and academic counseling services. Students are given the opportunity to explore issues that can help them achieve success. To make an appointment please call 718-982-2391 or drop-in to 1A-109. Students can also be seen on a walk-in basis.
Email: counseling@csi.cuny.edu

The Writing Center
2S-216
Bob Brandt, Tutoring Coordinator
Contact Info: 718-982-3635
The Writing Center, under the direction of the English Department, assists students in improving reading and writing skills in all subject areas. Our basic approach is to help students improve their skills by providing them with meaningful feedback and guidance. We are here to help each student thoroughly fulfill his or her own potential through a better understanding of course requirements, assignments and readings. To meet these goals, we offer two primary modes of tutoring. Students with regularly scheduled appointments meet for one class period (50 minutes) a week with a designated tutor, sometimes one-on- one and sometimes in small groups that include up to three other students in the same class or at the same level. Drop-in sessions, during which students are seen on a first-come, first-served basis, require no appointment.

Class Session	Lecture	Student Led Group Discussion	Presentation	Classwork	Readings
Tue 6/4	Introduction	Assign Groups	Assign Groups	Citi Certificate Training	
Thu 6/6	Ethnics in Research Topics and Themes in Developmental Psych Basics in conducting psychological research			Write a 1-2 page research proposal	Chapter 2
Tue 6/11	Literature Review	What questions do we want to find in literature	meta-analysis	Review and summarize 7 articles	will be posted on blackboard
Thu 6/13	Research Design	How to design an experiment: step by step	Preferential Looking Time	Write up a 2-3 pages of experimental design	Chapter 6
Tue 6/18	Data Coding: speech	How do we analyze children's speech	CHILDES	Coding data in CLAN	
Thu 6/20	Data Coding: speech	What are we looking for in children's speech	Overregularization	Coding data in CLAN	
Tue 6/25	Data Coding: behavioral data	How do we analyze children's behavior	Databrary	Coding data in Datavyu	
Thu 6/27	Data Coding: behavioral data	What are we looking for in children's behavior	Joint attention	Coding data in Datavyu	
Tue 7/2	Reliability and Validity	How to control reliability and validity	Reliability and Validity in SAT exams	Stats Practice I	Chapter 4,10
Thu 7/4	No Class	No Class			
Tue 7/9	Data Analysis I	How to clean data for analysis	Data Visulization	Stats Practice II	Statistics Modules 1-7
Thu 7/11	Data Analysis II	What test to pick up for you analysis	Causal graph	Stats Practice III	Statistics Modules 8-16
Tue 7/16	Discussion and Results			Writing up the results	
Thu 7/18	Discussion and Results (Writing and Formatting)			Finalize your final research proposal	
Tue 7/23	Last Class Presentation Day				