

PSYC 5314: Cognitive Development

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OFFICE: 517
CLASS MEETINGS: T, Th 9:30 AM – 10:50 PM
COURSE WEBSITE: webct.uta.edu
OFFICE HOURS: T 11 – 12:00 PM and by
Appointment

Course Description

Purpose and Goal: The course provides a survey of topics in cognitive development. Each week chapters and articles covering a specific topic will be discussed.

Student Learning Outcomes: This class will be interactive in nature revolving around class participation. As a result of taking this course you should gain the following knowledge

- 1) A general understanding of the cognitive development
- 2) An understanding of various theoretical perspectives of cognitive development
- 3) An understanding of research methods used to better understand cognitive development
- 4) An understanding of some of the applications cognitive development to real world situations

Your knowledge of course material will be evaluated in three different ways:

- 1) Your ability to clearly communicate the complex issues inherent to the scientific understanding of cognitive development during a day of class that you will lead.
- 2) Your ability to discuss the topics inherent to cognitive development during class discussions
- 3) Your ability to clearly communicate your understanding of cognitive development on written and oral final exams.

Required Readings: As a courtesy, all required readings are available in pdf format on WebCT.

Specific Course Requirements

Class Participation: Each student is expected to come to class prepared to discuss the content of the assigned readings. Class participation is worth 50 possible points.

Reading Questions: The evening before class each student is to generate three questions about the readings assigned for class on the following day. These questions are to be e-mailed to the instructor the evening prior to class. These questions will serve as discussion topics during class. Reading questions are worth 50 possible points.

Student Topics: To help facilitate the student learning objectives, each student will pick a topic broadly categorized as falling into cognitive development. The topic can be basic (e.g., categorization, language development, decision making) or more applied in nature (e.g., prejudice, reading, autism, risky decision making in adolescents). The inclusion of student topic days should allow for the topics covered in this course to be customized to the interests of the specific students in the class. The student leading class discussion will select three readings in her topic area for distribution to the other members of the class. The student will then lead class discussion on this topic. The student leading discussion is expected to have a deeper and broader knowledge of the topic than what is covered in the course readings. On student topic days the students not leading discussion are still expected to generate reading questions and to e-mail these to the instructor and student leading class discussion the evening prior to class.

Final Exam: Your knowledge of the topics covered in this course will be tested with written and oral final exams.

Written Component. During the final week of class you will be provided with 5 questions pertaining to the overall topics of the course. You are to answer these questions independently. Your answers to these questions will be due during finals week prior to you taking the oral component of your final exam. The written component of the final exam is worth 50 points.

Oral Component. During final exam week you are required to meet with the instructor and complete an oral proficiency exam of the topics covered in this course. Any aspect of the course material is open for discussion. The exam will consist of a dialogue between you and the instructor during which you will be expected to demonstrate a proficient knowledge of the concepts covered in the course and display an ability to apply these concepts to practical situations. Your written exam will be due prior to the oral component of the final exam.

Course Policies

Grading Policy: A total of 200 points will be available for this class. A hundred of these points will come from your final exams (50 written, 50 oral). Fifty of these points will come from the quality of the reading questions that you provide and the remaining fifty points will come from the quality of your class participation.

Grades for the course will be assigned according to the following "total points earned" cutoffs:

200 – 180 points	- A
179 – 160 points	- B
159 – 140 points	- C
139 – 120 points	- D
119 – 0 points	- F

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): If you are a student who requires accommodations in compliance with the ADA, please consult with me at the beginning of the semester. As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide a reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Your responsibility is to inform me of documentation authorizing the specific accommodation. Student services at UTA include the Office for Students with Disabilities (located in the lower level of the University Center), which is responsible for verifying and implementing accommodations to ensure equal opportunity in all programs and activities.

Student Support Services: The University supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. They include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded programs. Students requiring assistance academically, personally, or socially should contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107 for more information and appropriate referrals.

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form at The University of Texas at Arlington. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. (Regents= Rules and Regulations, Part One, Chapter VI, Section 3, Subsection 3.2., Subdivision 3.22).

Bomb Threats: If anyone is tempted to call in a bomb threat, be aware that UTA will attempt to trace the phone call and prosecute all responsible parties. Every effort will be made to avoid cancellation of presentations/tests caused by the bomb threat. Unannounced alternate sites will be available for these classes. Your instructor will make you aware of alternate class sites in the event that your classroom is not available.