

PSYC40001 CURRENT TOPICS IN DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

Subject Description 2021

Key dates

Assessment	Due before	Word limit	Assessment Weight
Argumentative essay	8:00am – Friday Week 4	2,000	40%
24 MCQs	8:00am – Monday Week 7		30%
Clinical Psychology report	8:00am – Friday Week 9	1,000	30%

Academic Staff

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Seminar Times and Locations

We meet in weeks 1, 2, 3 and then weeks 5, 6, 7 of Semester 2.

- Monday 2.15pm – 5.15pm PAR-McCoy-201 (Fritz Loewe Theatre)
- Friday 9.00am – 12.00pm PAR-Glyn Davis (MSD)-B121 (Malaysian Theatre)

Rather than having a 3-hour live Zoom session for each seminar, the first hour – which is in the form of a lecture – will be pre-recorded and made available by Thursday 5.00pm for the Monday sessions and by Wednesday 5.00pm for the Friday sessions.

The live seminars will take place on **Mondays 3.15pm – 5.15pm and Fridays 10.00am – 12.00pm.**

Students are required to have engaged with the online material prior to the live seminar, and the start time for the live session has been delayed to allow students to watch the pre-recorded lecture within the timetabled seminar period for the subject if they prefer.

We plan to meet in person and concurrently on Zoom, and you can choose in which format you would like to meet.

Subject Overview

The subject aims to provide students with the ability to critically review advances in developmental psychological research by analysing answers to questions about how best to conceptualise the impact of genetic, environmental, neurological, cognitive, behavioural, and cultural factors on the developing child.

Four themes/questions reoccur in the subject:

- What is the correspondence between developmental models and the research methods used to evaluate those models?
- What are typical and/or atypical developmental trajectories?
- What are the most appropriate developmental assessment measures and procedures?
- What are the sources of variation in a child's life that set the trajectories of their development?

Intended learning outcomes

Knowledge

On completion of the subject students will demonstrate knowledge of:

- developmental models and developmental research methods
- typical and atypical developmental trajectories
- ways to measure child performance
- the relationships between genetic, environmental, neurological, cognitive, behavioural, and cultural aspects of development

Skills

On completion of the subject students will have developed skills to:

- interpret data based on typical and atypical developmental trajectories from a clinical assessment perspective
- review contemporary research claims
- identify meaningful outcomes and limitations of developmental tests
- make an argument, based on current empirical research

Application of knowledge and skills

On completion of this subject students will be able to apply their knowledge and skills to:

- critically evaluate perspectives on genetic, environmental, neurological, cognitive, behavioural, and cultural aspects of development
- evaluate the adequacy of the correspondence between developmental models and research methods used to evaluate those models
- write analytical and argumentative essay reflecting an understanding of a current developmental debate
- write a clinical report based on child developmental data

Generic skills

On completion of this subject students will have had the opportunity to develop skills in:

- comparing different approaches used in Developmental Psychology

- presenting, developing, and supporting an argument for a position and anticipating criticism
- interacting with peers to facilitate respectful development of communication and listening skills
- writing analytical and argumentative essays and a clinical report

Seminar Schedule

Week	Day	Lecturer	Topic	Assignment due
1	Monday	KJ	Diagnosis of neurodevelopmental disorders (NDDs)	
1	Friday	KJ	Theories of NDDs	
2	Monday	KJ	Genetic causes and correlates of NDDs	
2	Friday	KJ	Environmental causes and correlates of NDDs	
3	Monday	KJ	Cognitive profiles associated with NDDs	
3	Friday	KJ	Behaviour associated with NDDs	
4	No classes			Essay due Friday
5	Monday	MU	ASD in adulthood	
5	Friday	MU	Interventions for NDDs	
6	Monday	MM	Sex differences in development	
6	Friday	MM	Gene-environment interplay in the effects of education on cognitive development	
7	Monday	BG	Social functioning in NDDs	MCQs due Monday
7	Friday	BG	Social functioning in NDDs	
8	No classes			
9	No classes			Clinical Report due Friday
			Mid-semester break	
10	No classes			
11	No classes			
12	No classes			