

PSYC*2450, Course Outline: Fall 2025

General Information

Some courses are offered virtually and some face to face. **This course is offered using the Face-to-Face format. The course has set day, time, and location of class (see below).**

Course Title: Developmental Psychology

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to and an analysis of the major theories of developmental psychology. Emphasis will be placed on the processes of development in the child including physical growth, perception, cognition, personality, and interactions with the social environment. The application of developmental psychology to educational and social issues will be discussed.

Credit Weight: 0.5

Academic Department (or campus): Department of Psychology

Semester Offering: Fall 2025

Class Schedule and Location: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00 PM to 2:20 PM in ROZH*101

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Maria Pavlova, PhD, RPsych

Instructor Email: mpavlova@uoguelph.ca

Office location and office hours: By appointment; MCKN 3002 or virtually

GTA Information

GTA Name: Olivia Dobson

GTA Email: odobson@uoguelph.ca

GTA office location and office hours: By appointment

GTA Name: Belle Dodd

GTA Email: bdodd@uoguelph.ca

GTA office location and office hours: By appointment

GTA Name: Emma Truffyn

GTA Email: etruffyn@uoguelph.ca

GTA office location and office hours: By appointment

GTA Name: Caroline Zolis

GTA Email: czolis@uoguelph.ca

GTA office location and office hours: By appointment

Course Content

Specific Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to

- 1) Understand and critically evaluate key components of main theories of child development.
- 2) Identify and discuss the trajectories of motor, perceptual, cognitive, emotional, moral, gender, and language development.
- 3) Understand the role of caregivers in child development and explain the impact of the caregiver-child relationship on child development.
- 4) Identify and apply major themes in child development research, including research methods and techniques used to examine various aspects of child development.
- 5) Develop deeper, more nuanced understanding about a child development topic of choice and present relevant research in a clear, thoughtful, and coherent way.
- 6) Practice and enhance their time management, personal organization, and appropriate levels of academic independence as they are working on course assignments.

These outcomes align with the following [University of Guelph's approved learning outcomes](#) (corresponding course learning outcome in parentheses):

- **Critical and Creative Thinking**, including Creativity and Depth and Breadth of Understanding (1 through 5)
- **Literacy**, including Information Literacy, Technological Literacy, and Visual Literacy (1 through 5)
- **Global Understanding**, including Intercultural Competence and Global Understanding (1 through 5)
- **Communicating**, including Oral and Written Communication, Reading Comprehension, and Integrative Communication (1 through 6)
- **Professional and Ethical Behaviour**, including Personal Organization and Time Management (1 through 6)

Lecture Content:

Week	Date*	Topic	Readings**
1	September 4, 2025	Course Introduction Setting the Stage: The Science of Child Development	Chapter 1
2	September 9, 2025	Child Development Research	Chapter 1
	September 11, 2025	Genetic Basics of Child Development	Chapter 2
3	September 16, 2025	Prenatal Development, Birth, and the Newborn	Chapter 3

	September 18, 2025	Growth and Health	Chapter 4
4	September 23, 2025	Perceptual and Motor Development Exam Review	Chapter 5
	September 25, 2025	MIDTERM EXAM #1	Chapters 1 through 5
5	September 30, 2025	Theories of Cognitive Development	Chapter 6
	October 2, 2025	Theories of Cognitive Development	Chapter 6
6	October 7, 2025	Cognitive Processes and Academic Skills	Chapter 7
	October 9, 2025	Cognitive Processes and Academic Skills	Chapter 7
7	October 14, 2025	Fall Study Break Day, NO CLASS	
	October 16, 2025	Language and Communication	Chapter 9
8	October 21, 2025	Language and Communication Exam Review	Chapter 9
	October 23, 2025	MIDTERM EXAM #2	Chapters 6 through 9
9	October 28, 2025	Emotional Development	Chapter 10
	October 30, 2025	Emotional Development	Chapter 10
10	November 4, 2025	Understanding of Self and Others	Chapter 11
	November 6, 2025	Understanding of Self and Others	Chapter 11
	November 6, 2025	COURSE ASSIGNMENT is due, 5:00 PM	
11	November 11, 2025	Moral Understanding and Moral Behaviour	Chapter 12
	November 13, 2025	Gender and Development	Chapter 13
	November 13, 2025	Make-up midterm exam(s), time TBD	
12	November 18, 2025	Gender and Development	Chapter 13
	November 20, 2025	Social Influences	Chapter 14
13	November 25, 2025	Social Influences Voting for best myth-busting Course Wrap-up	Chapter 14
	November 27, 2025	Exam Review Q&A	
	November 28, 2025	***Last day to drop class*** CHAPTER QUIZZES and EXTRA CREDIT are due	
	December 8, 2025	FINAL EXAM, 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM	Chapters 10 through 14

**Shifts in the lecture schedule may occur depending on our classes' pace and/or unforeseeable circumstances. Any changes will be posted on Courselink.*

***I encourage you to complete the readings prior to the lectures. This will help you follow the class more easily and participate in class activities more fully.*

Course Assignments and Tests:

Assignment or Test	Due Date	Contribution to Final Mark (%)	Learning Outcomes Assessed
Midterm Exam #1	September 25, 2025	20	1 through 6
Midterm Exam #2	October 23, 2025	20	1 through 6
Chapter Quizzes	10 quizzes completed by November 28, 2025 (1% per chapter)	10	1 through 6
Course Assignment	November 6, 2025	25	5 and 6
Final Exam	December 8, 2025	30	1 through 6

Additional Notes:

Ten chapter quizzes (10%) via Courselink by November 28, 2025, 11:59 PM.

- Chapter quizzes will consist of multiple-choice questions and will contribute to your overall grade (i.e., 10%).
- Why this assignment? Completing the quizzes will help you to test your knowledge and prepare for the exams. Therefore, I strongly encourage you to complete the quizzes throughout the semester.
- You will have one attempt and 30 minutes to complete each quiz.
- I recognize that we all vary in terms of what content we find easier or harder to learn. I also appreciate that there are factors in our lives that affect our ability to fully engage in learning (e.g. getting sick, family obligations). Therefore, out of the 14 possible chapter quizzes, you need to complete 10 quizzes. If you complete more than 10 chapter quizzes, the highest 10 results will count toward your grade. You do not have to complete more than 10 quizzes.
- Deadline for the quizzes is November 28, 2025. *No extensions will be granted for this assignment.*

Course assignment (25%) via Courselink Dropbox by November 6, 2025, 5:00 PM.

This assignment is designed to promote active learning and to enhance your communication, creative, and critical thinking skills. You will learn to work with complex ideas and clarify them in a succinct and impactful way. Assignment details will be posted on Courselink and reviewed during the first class.

Midterm exams (20% each), in-person, during the usual lecture time on September 25 and October 23, 2025.

Midterm exams will consist of multiple choice and true-or-false questions. As students vary in how they prefer to demonstrate what they learned, the questions will vary in type (e.g., applied, theoretical, knowledge/recall, scenario-based). The exams will give you a chance to check and apply your newly acquired knowledge about developmental psychology.

To be ready for the exams, you should complete the assigned readings and make good notes during lectures. **Both lecture and textbook content will be covered in the exams.**

Midterm exams are not cumulative. The exams will be conducted in class and are designed to be completed in one hour. Accommodations need to be arranged through the [Student Accessibility Services](#) ahead of time.

Extra credit (2% max) via Courselink by November 28, 2025, 11:59 PM.

You can complete additional chapter quizzes for extra credit (each quiz needs to be at least 80%; 0.5 extra credit per chapter).

Final examination date and time:

December 8, 2025, 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM

Location: TBA on Courselink and Webadvisor.

To understand rules and regulations regarding Examinations students are encouraged to read [Student's Responsibilities](#). If the student is unable to meet the final exam requirements due to medical, psychological or compassionate circumstances they are encouraged to review Student's Responsibilities in the [Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions](#) section of the Academic Calendar.

Final exam weighting: 25%

The final exam is not cumulative. Similar to the midterms, the final exam will include multiple-choice and true-false questions. You will have two hours to complete the final exam.

Course Resources

Required Texts:

Kail, R. V., & Barnfield, A. M. C. (2021). *Children and their development* (Canadian ed., 5th ed.). Pearson Canada.

The 4th edition of the textbook is available on library reserve.

For tech support with accessing the textbook, please contact Pearson [directly](#).

Cost of Texts:

The cost of the required text for this course, Children and Their Development, is \$67.99 + tax available for purchase through [Pearson](#). Students are welcome to use second-hand copies of the textbook or purchase the textbook from alternate locations (e.g., the [University Bookstore](#)). The prices in other locations may differ from that from the publisher and are subject to change. This is a [Revel version](#) of the textbook which is more interactive and contains practice quizzes, which some students may find helpful. **The Revel version is NOT needed for the course.** There is an option to [upgrade to a paper version](#) of the textbook when ordering through Pearson.

Textbook / Learning Resource	Required / Recommended	Cost*
Kail, R. V., & Barnfield, A. M. C. (2021). <i>Children and their development</i> (Canadian ed., 5th ed.). Pearson Canada.	Required	\$67.99 + tax (6-month access to eTextbook)

*Costs are subject to change.

Other Resources:

Lecture Notes. Lecture notes will be available on Courselink before each class.

Instructor-Student Communication. You are always welcome to email me.

- Please always use your official University of Guelph email to do so (otherwise, there is a good chance your message will end up in my junk folder, which I do not check it)

- Include PSYC*2450 in the subject of your email. Otherwise, I may not notice the email as quickly.
- I will get back to you within 24 hours, Monday through Friday. If you do not receive a reply within 24 hours, please follow up with me.

I will use Courselink to communicate with students. Please check the course page regularly.

Course Policies

Lecture Attendance. I strongly encourage you to attend the lectures. I will be posting the lecture slides on Courselink. That said, in-class exercises, videos, and practice questions will not be posted. If you have to miss a class, please make arrangements to get the notes from your peers.

Missed Midterm. There are two midterm exams in this course scheduled for September 25 and October 23, 2025.

- If you know that you are going to miss a midterm exam, please contact me as soon as possible.
- If you miss a midterm exam due to unforeseen circumstances, contact me via email within 48 hours.
- If you don't contact me before/within 48 hours of the missed exam, you will receive a grade of 0% on that exam.
- One make-up midterm exam day is scheduled for November 13 (time TBD, likely after our class).
- The weight of a missed midterm exam cannot be shifted to another midterm or final exam as the exams are not cumulative.

Missed Final Exam. According to the [University policy](#), final exams are rescheduled via Academic Counselling. **If you miss the final exam, [you need to contact them directly](#).**

Grading Policies

Re-grading. If you believe that your assignment/exam grade does not reflect your work and knowledge, please follow the Regrade Policy (posted on Courselink). The new grade, either lower or higher, will be your final grade.

Late Assignments. Some key learning outcomes for this course are personal organization skills and time management. Although not explicitly assessed, these skills will be important for meeting assignment deadlines and planning your studying.

Infographic/Paper. For every 24 hours past the deadline (including weekends), 10% will be deducted from the Infographic grade.

Chapter quizzes. There are no late submission penalties for the chapter quizzes as no extension will be granted after the deadline of November 28, 2025.

Undergraduate Grading Procedures

Course Policy regarding use of electronic devices and recording of lectures:

Electronic recording of classes is expressly forbidden without consent of the instructor. When recordings are permitted, they are solely for the use of the authorized student and may not be reproduced, or transmitted to others, without the express written consent of the instructor.

University Policies

Disclaimer:

Please note that a revision of the format of course offerings, changes in classroom protocols, and academic schedules is occasionally required. Any such changes will be announced via CourseLink and/or class email. This includes on-campus scheduling during the semester, mid-terms and final examination schedules.

Academic Consideration

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the academic calendar for information on regulations and procedures for

Academic Consideration:

[Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions](#)

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community, faculty, staff, and students to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring.

University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection. Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:

[Academic Misconduct Policy](#)

Illness

Medical notes will not normally be required for singular instances of academic consideration, although students may be required to provide supporting documentation for multiple missed assessments or when involving a large part of a course (e.g., final exam or major assignment).

Accessibility

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment.

Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) as soon as possible.

For more information, contact SAS at 519-824-4120 ext. 54335 or email accessibility@uoguelph.ca or the [Student Accessibility Services Website](#)

Student Feedback Questionnaire

These questionnaires (formerly course evaluations) will be available to students during the last 2 weeks of the semester. Students will receive an email directly from the Student Feedback Administration system which will include a direct link to the questionnaire for this course. During this time, when a student goes to login to Courselink, a reminder will pop-up when a task is available to complete.

[Student Feedback Questionnaire](#)

Drop date

The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is Friday November 28, 2025. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the [Schedule of Dates in the Academic Calendar](#).

Instructors must provide [meaningful and constructive feedback, at minimum 20% of the final course grade, prior to the 40th class day](#). For courses which are of shorter duration, 20% of the final grade must be provided two-thirds of the way through the course.

[Current Undergraduate Calendar](#)

Email communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

The Use of Generative AI

Students are not permitted to use generative AI in this course. Please refer to the University of Guelph-issued [statement on artificial intelligence systems, ChatGPT, and academic integrity](#) from March 2023 and regulations and procedures around academic misconduct in the [undergraduate](#) calendars.

Additional Course Information

Course instructors are allowed to use software to help in detecting plagiarism or unauthorized copying of student assignments. Plagiarism is one of the most common types of academic misconduct on our campus. Plagiarism involves students using the work, ideas and/or the exact wording of other people or sources without giving proper credit to others for the work, ideas and/or words in their papers. Students can unintentionally commit misconduct because they do not know how to reference outside sources properly or because they don't check their work carefully enough before handing it in. Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work

before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

In this course, your instructor will be using Turnitin.com to detect possible plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration or copying as part of the ongoing efforts to prevent plagiarism in the College of Social and Applied Human Sciences.

A major benefit of using Turnitin is that students will be able to educate and empower themselves in preventing misconduct. In this course, you may screen your own assignments through Turnitin as many times as you wish before the due date. You will be able to see and print reports that show you exactly where you have properly and improperly referenced the outside sources and materials in your assignment.