PSYC3064A Advanced Developmental Psychology
First Semester, 2020-2021

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Lectures
Friday  9:30–11:20am   CPD 2.16

Tutorials
Wed 3:30-5:20pm (Venue TBC)
Wed 4:30-5:20pm (Venue TBC)

Course Objectives
This course aims at helping students who have basic understanding of developmental psychology to gain better knowledge of some major issues in the field and how psychologists address those issues through various research designs and methodology. Throughout the course, students are expected to participate actively in class discussion to analyze critically the existing knowledge and evaluate the research in the field. Students will also apply their knowledge of developmental psychology to develop a sound research proposal.

Learning Outcomes
1. More knowledgeable of the various research designs and methodology commonly used by psychologists to study developmental phenomena.
2. Able to design and develop a sound research plan to answer interested research questions, and to communicate the research ideas to a research audience.
3. Through the evaluation of own and others’ research plan, gain insights into some of the key issues facing researchers.

Pre-requisite
PSYC2009 (Life-span Developmental Psychology)
PSYC1004 (Introduction to Quantitative Methods in Psychology)
Lectures and Tutorials Dates and Topics  
(NOTE: The first seven lectures will be conducted online. Subject to the University’s teaching arrangement and the pandemic situation, further updates will be communicated to you through the course Moodle).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Tutorial</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sep 4</td>
<td>*Introduction</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Sep 11</td>
<td>*Object Permanence</td>
<td>T1</td>
<td>*Live online tutorial: Orientation and writing a research proposal I</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Sep 18</td>
<td>*Social Cognition</td>
<td>T2</td>
<td>*Pre-recorded tutorial: Writing a research proposal II</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Sep 25</td>
<td>*Language</td>
<td>T3</td>
<td>*Pre-recorded tutorial: Writing a research proposal III</td>
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<td>Oct 2 Mid-Autumn Festival Holiday (No Class)</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Oct 9</td>
<td>*Numerical Concepts</td>
<td>T4</td>
<td>^Live tutorial: Writing a research proposal IV</td>
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<td>Oct 16 Reading Week (No Class)</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Oct 23</td>
<td>*Parent-Child Relationship</td>
<td>T5</td>
<td>*/^Individual proposal feedback</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Oct 30</td>
<td>*Temperament and Emotion</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Nov 6</td>
<td>^Project Presentations</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Nov 13</td>
<td>^Project Presentations</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Nov 20</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Nov 27</td>
<td>^Project Presentations</td>
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(* = online class; ^ = face-to-face class)

Assessment  
(NOTE: Subject to the University’s teaching arrangement and the pandemic situation, further changes to the assessments will be communicated to you through the course Moodle).

**Research Proposal (50%): draft (15%) + final proposal (35%)**  
Choose a topic in developmental psychology and write a feasible research proposal. The draft/ final proposal should include the following sections:  
A. Introduction: theoretical analysis, review of prior research findings, research gap, and
significance of your research questions.

B. Method: detailed explanation and justification of your research design and the procedures to be adopted.

C. Predicted Results and Discussion: explain your predictions and how you will analyze your data and interpret different patterns of findings.

D. References: list out all the relevant references you have read / used.

E. Appendices: attach all relevant research materials here (e.g., interview protocols, descriptions of test items, consent forms for parents/guardians of child participants and for adult participants [if you collect pilot data], graphs / tables / diagrams).

The research proposal should be around 10 to 15 pages (excluding Reference and Appendices Sections), double-spaced, and written in APA-format. You should submit both hard and soft copies for the draft and final proposal: the hard submitted to your tutor; the soft submitted to the Moodle. The draft is due on 22 Oct 2020 (5pm) and the final proposal is due on 7 Dec 2020 (5pm). Both the draft and the final proposal will not be accepted one week after their due dates. Late submission will be deducted 10% of the assignment grade per day. Submission time is based on the time you submit the soft copy to the Moodle.

The draft / final proposal will be graded based on the following criteria:

✓ Knowledge of existing research findings and methodology (20%)
✓ Insights into existing research findings and methodology (25%)
✓ Research questions and methodology (25%)
✓ Clarity and coherence of arguments (15%)
✓ Writing and style (15%)
✓ See separate document for detailed grading criteria

You will schedule an individual meeting with your tutor to receive individual feedback on your proposal draft (both on paper and verbally) during the week BEFORE your individual proposal presentation. And you will receive individual feedback on paper or in meeting within one month for the final proposal.

**Individual Project Presentation (20%)**

Each student will present his/her proposal in poster format and answer questions from the class in Lectures 8 to 11. Immediate teacher and peer feedback will be given on paper. The order of presentation, as well as more information about the format of the presentation, will be discussed in the tutorials.

Assessment criteria: see separate document on Proposal Presentation Feedback Form available on Moodle
**Class Participation (26%): Pre-Lecture Reflections (12%) + Lecture Discussion (14%)**

You are required to read the assigned articles each week before coming to the lecture. From Lectures 2 to 7, you will write a short reflection (12%) based on what you read that week and submit it to Moodle before class (due 48 hours before the lecture). No late submission will be accepted. The reflection (no more than 100 words) can be a question or your comment on the assigned articles. Grades of your reflection will be available on Moodle within one week and you can contact your tutor for more comments. Another 14% of the course mark will be allocated to your participation and contribution to the discussion during lecture.

Assessment criteria:
A grade: Reflections and discussion that go beyond understanding the materials. They consistently entail a high level of insight, creativity, and/or critical thinking.
B grade: Reflections and discussion that demonstrate good understanding of the materials and sometimes show insight, creativity, and/or critical thinking.
C grade: Reflections and discussion that illustrate fragmented understanding of the materials.
D grade or below: No reflections submitted or no evidence of even completing the readings.

**Tutorial Participation (4%)**
The first tutorial will be an orientation and give you a brief idea on how to get started when planning a research. In the second and third tutorials, you will learn how to write a proposal using the materials posted on Moodle. You are highly encouraged to contact your tutor if you have any questions. In tutorial 4, your tutor will show you sample proposals (written by students in previous cohorts) and discuss with you ways to improve the writings. Please pay attention to announcements on Moodle for the arrangements.

**Academic Honesty**
Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Any student who engages in any form of academic dishonesty (e.g., cheating on exams, plagiarism, self-plagiarism, interfering with grading, falsification and fabrication of data in any academic exercise etc.) will receive a grade of F on the component(s) of assessment concerned or in this course and will be reported to the Department/Faculty Office/University Disciplinary Committee for further disciplinary action. There will be no exceptions. If you are not sure what constitutes the academic offense of plagiarism, checkout the webpage at http://www.hku.hk/plagiarism. Department of Psychology has formulated departmental policies/guidelines on student misconduct. Visit the website at https://psychology.hku.hk/useful-information-to-current-students/ for more information.

**Plagiarism**
A hardcopy and a softcopy are required for all written assignments. The softcopy will be checked for
plagiarism against a database of articles, books, webpages, and essays submitted by students at HKU and other universities. No credit will be given for an assignment that contains plagiarized materials. Further penalties will also be applied. These penalties include a zero mark for participation in course tutorials and a zero mark for the course. Plagiarism will also be reported to Department/Faculty Office/University Disciplinary Committee for consideration of possible disciplinary action.

Readings
All assigned articles are available on the Moodle for this course. Please read and bring the articles for that week to class for discussion. No textbook is required for this course. References to other relevant articles will be provided on the lecture handouts.

### Appendix: Assigned Readings

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