EPSY 6103: Cognitive and Language Development
Mondays 5:30pm – 8:20pm

Instructor: Anondah R. Saide, PhD
Email: anondah.saide@unt.edu
Office Hours: by appointment face-to-face or via Zoom

REQUIRED READINGS


- In addition to the textbook listed above, assigned article readings will be posted on Canvas. Students are responsible for accessing and reading all assigned material prior to class. You are required to bring your reading notes to class so that you are prepared to discuss the readings.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

EPSY 6103—Cognitive and Language Development: Comprehensive developmental sequence of cognitive development and language acquisition from birth through adulthood, focusing on theories and research related to cognitive, perceptual and language development, as well as relationships between language and thought. Prerequisite(s): EPSY 6040 or consent of instructor.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The following assignments are meant to give you the opportunity to (1) explore aspects of cognitive development in more depth, and (2) develop professional skills including oral presentation and formal writing about theories and research in cognitive development.

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<th>Grade Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<td>Discussion Questions &amp; Class Participation</td>
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<td>Research/Article Presentations</td>
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<td>TED Talk (Midterm)</td>
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<td>Final Take-Home Exam</td>
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1. **In-Class Contribution & Discussion Question Submission** (worth 25%): This is a seminar, not lecture-based course. Students are expected to attend each class and fully participate in class discussions. A significant part of the learning process is engaging in scholarly discussion with your peers. Arriving late or leaving early from class will negatively impact your grade, unless approved prior to class by the instructor. Your participation grade will reflect the quality (not quantity) of your class discussions.
contributions and discussion questions. You need to bring your reading notes to class.

Each student is expected to generate at least one discussion question/issue per reading assigned. These questions must be submitted by 5 pm on Friday (before class) via the survey link provided to you on Canvas. Please feel free to enrich the discussion by bringing in additional readings and research to class—even better if the research can be linked to your own work. These questions need to be on-time and thoughtful for you to receive the full credit. You also must be in class, for your discussion questions to “count” for the week. Keep in mind that your discussion questions tell me how much you read and thought about the topics ahead of time.

2. **Research/Article Presentations** (worth 25%): Each student will be responsible (on two occasions) for teaching the class about a research study recently conducted in the area discussed that week. Students will have the opportunity to pick the week/topics they want. This responsibility involves the following:
   a) **Find an article:** The article must relate to a topic for the week, have been published in the last 5 years, present original research, and have been printed in a top journal (80 percentile or higher based on Scopus).
   b) **Seek approval:** Send the article you chose to Dr. Saide for approval. You cannot present an article without prior approval. Dr. Saide will check it for appropriateness and quality.
   c) **Present to peers:** During the week of your article presentation, you will prepare a 10-minute engaging summary of the article methodology and findings to share with your peers. You should explain how the article relates to the other readings for the week. You can use PowerPoint, handouts, or other techniques to explain the findings. You are welcome to be creative or keep things simple. Just make sure you are clear and concise. Your peers will fill out a form with feedback on your article presentation.

3. **TED Talk Presentation** (worth 25%): Each student will create a 10 to 15-minute TED Talk on a cognitive development topic. Your topic/thesis statement for your talk must be approved by Dr. Saide by Week 5 (2/14). TED talks will take place after Spring Break.

Here are a few examples of some great TED talks:
- [https://www.ted.com/talks/rebecca_saxe_how_we_read_each_other_s_minds/transcript?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/rebecca_saxe_how_we_read_each_other_s_minds/transcript?language=en)
- [https://www.ted.com/talks/patricia_kuhl_the_linguistic_genius_of_babies](https://www.ted.com/talks/patricia_kuhl_the_linguistic_genius_of_babies)
- [https://www.ted.com/talks/celeste_headlee_10_ways_to_have_a_better_conversation?referrer=playlist-the_most_popular_talks_of_all&language=en#t-113065](https://www.ted.com/talks/celeste_headlee_10_ways_to_have_a_better_conversation?referrer=playlist-the_most_popular_talks_of_all&language=en#t-113065)

4. **Take-Home Final:** The final exam for this class is a take-home final. You will be given a list of four essay questions on Monday (5/2/22). You will then pick two of the questions to answer in an essay format. Answers will be due the following Tuesday (5/10/22) via Canvas. The questions will require you to integrate material from the course. The best way to prepare for the final is to come to class, do the readings, and engage in scholarly dialogue.

**Course Grades:** A = 90% and above (90 points), B= 80-89% (80 points), C= 70-79% (70 points), F= below 70%. If at any time you have concerns about your grade or a particular aspect of the course, please schedule an appointment to talk with me.
COURSE/UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Attendance. Students are expected to attend all classes regularly and punctually. If you no longer wish to be in the class, YOU have to drop the class via the UNT portal or by contacting the Registrar’s Office for guidance. The instructor does not drop/withdraw students from the course.

COVID Information:

COVID-19 Impact on Attendance
While attendance is expected, it is important for all of us to be mindful of the health and safety of everyone in our community, especially given concerns about COVID-19. Please contact me if you are unable to attend class because you are ill, or unable to attend class due to a related issue regarding COVID-19. It is important that you communicate with me prior to being absent so I may make a decision about accommodating your request to be excused from class.

If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Hotline at 844-366-5892 or COVID@unt.edu for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure. While attendance is an important part of succeeding in this class, your own health, and those of others in the community, are more important.

Class Materials for Remote Instruction
Remote instruction may be necessary if community health conditions change or you need to self-isolate or quarantine due to COVID-19. Students will need access to a webcam and microphone to participate in fully remote portions of the class. Information on how to be successful in a remote learning environment can be found at https://online.unt.edu/learn

Statement on Face Covering
UNT encourages everyone to wear a face-covering when indoors, regardless of vaccination status, to protect yourself and others from COVID infection, as recommended by current CDC guidelines. Face covering guidelines could change based on community health conditions.

Academic Accommodations: The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at http://disability.unt.edu. You may also contact them by phone at (940) 565-4323.

Course Technology Policy: This policy can be summed up in four words: No computers, no phones. Using cell phones or computers during class time is prohibited. Like it or not, technology divides your attention. Staying focused will help you succeed! There is ample research to support that. Please bring printed copies of your notes. If you would like the instructor to print them for you, email them to the instructor at least 4 hours prior to class. There is an exception to this policy for students who require audio recordings due to documented learning differences which should be discussed with the instructor prior to class. Students are not permitted to audio record class without explicit approval from the instructor.
Quality of Work: All of your work must be proofread, typed, and on-time. Students will lose one full letter grade per day that the paper is late. All submitted questions should be proofread for coherency and typographical errors. High-quality writing is expected, and students should consult UNT writing center for additional support.  https://writinglab.unt.edu/graduate-tutoring

Respect for Others: The University of North Texas values diversity and individuality as part of advancing ideals of human worth, dignity and academic excellence. Diverse viewpoints enrich open discussion, foster the examination of values and exposure of biases, help educate people in rational conflict resolution, responsive leadership and prepare us for the complexities of a pluralistic society. As such, the University of North Texas is committed to maintaining an open, welcoming atmosphere that attracts qualified students, staff, and faculty from all groups to support their success. It is expected that students listen to and respect each other’s insights during class.

Academic Dishonesty: Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment. It is the responsibility of each student to be familiar with UNT's Policy on Academic Integrity and to be familiar with the different types of plagiarism, including mosaic plagiarism. Plagiarism, copying, cheating, or giving assistance to other students during examinations is a violation of academic integrity. Cases of suspected cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the Dean of Students office. Any and all work submitted in order to meet the requirements of this course must be originally created for this course. You may not turn in anything submitted for another course.

University Policy 06.003 states, “UNT promotes the integrity of learning processed and embraces the core values of trust and honesty. Academic integrity is based on educational principles and procedures that protect the rights of all participants in the educational process and validate the legitimacy of degrees awarded by the university. In the investigation and resolution of allegations of student academic dishonesty, the university’s actions are intended to be corrective, educationally sound, fundamentally fair, and based on reliable evidence.” Here is the link to additional information on this policy: https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.003.pdf

For more information on what constitutes plagiarism, as well as tips on citing your resources, visit www.plagiarism.org and check out this article: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5122250/

**If you require clarification on what counts as academic dishonesty, it is your responsibility to ask the instructor of the course. Ignorance is not an excuse for academic dishonesty.

Acceptable Student Behavior: Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the in-person or virtual classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct

Emergency Notification and Procedures: UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify you with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). The system sends voice messages (and text messages upon permission) to the phones of all active faculty staff, and students. Please make certain to update your phone numbers at http://www.my.unt.edu. Some helpful emergency preparedness actions include (1) knowing the evacuation routes and severe weather shelter areas in the buildings where your classes are held, (2) determining how you will contact family and friends if phones are temporarily
unavailable, and (3) identifying where you will go if you need to evacuate the Denton area suddenly. In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for course materials.

**Retention of Student Records:** Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. You have a right to view your individual record; however, information about your records will not be divulged to other individuals without the proper written consent. You are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the university’s policy in accordance with those mandates at the following link: [http://essc.unt.edu/registrar/ferpa.html](http://essc.unt.edu/registrar/ferpa.html)

**Grade Disputes:** If students are concerned about the grade they received on an exam or assignment, they should feel comfortable talking to their instructor about it. Students must submit a typed request explaining the rationale for the grade change. Students must dispute their grade within five (5) business days of receiving it or the instructor will not consider the dispute. Decisions regarding grade disputes are made at the discretion of the instructor.

**Succeed at UNT:** The University of North Texas endeavors to offer you a high-quality education and to provide a supportive environment. Here’s how to succeed at UNT: **Show up. Find support. Get advised. Be prepared. Get involved. Stay focused.** To learn more about campus resources and information on how you can achieve success, go to [https://success.unt.edu/](https://success.unt.edu/)
COURSE CALENDAR

*This calendar may be updated at the discretion of the instructor. Students will be notified via email of any changes.