

# Psychology 3100, Current Issues in Child Psychology – Syllabus, Summer 2006

Call number 92-592

SS1 Daily, 10:30am - 12:45pm., SLC 245

**Instructor: Dr. Janet Frick**

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Office Hours: after class

*The course syllabus is a general plan for the course;  
deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary*

## General Course Information

### **Course Description**

Psychology 3100 is a special topics undergraduate course that can cover a variety of issues. This particular section of the class is designed to explore the current status of the field of child psychology, including questions and debates that are currently being examined in the mainstream media and in current parenting “advice” columns. We will read from the “primary” child development literature, and see what the research experts have to say about various issues, but also will examine what is being said in the popular press. The idea is to evaluate and debate the “current” status of child psychology, but also to understand these issues in their historical and cultural context. This will be accomplished through assigned readings, class debates, student-led discussions, and writing assignments. There will be minimal lecturing, and instead the class will involve a high level of outside reading and in-class discussion and activities.

### **Prerequisites**

There are no official prerequisites for this course; however, it is expected that students will have completed and passed PSYC 1101, and will be able to read and interpret primary journal articles. Familiarity with APA format is also expected; you can seek out help from the Reference Librarians and online websites if you are unfamiliar with how to write in APA format.

### **Required Textbooks**

TAKING SIDES: Clashing Views in Childhood and Society, Sixth Edition

Diana S. Del Campo & Robert L. Del Campo (2005), McGraw Hill / Dushkin, ISBN:0-07-319507-3

Current Readings in Child Development, 3/E . Judy S. Deloache, Sarah C. Mangelsdorf & Eva Pomerantz, (1998), Allyn & Bacon, ISBN : 0-205-27955-4

## Grading

There are 500 points available in the course. 300 are from exams, and 200 from papers and activities. Grading is based on the following percentage scale:

A	93.00 - 100.00	C+	78.00 - 79.999
A-	90.00 - 92.999	C	73.00 - 77.999
B+	88.00 - 89.999	C-	70.00 - 72.999
B	83.00 - 87.999	D+	68.00 - 69.999
B-	80.00 - 82.999	D	60.00 - 67.999
		F	0 - 59.999

Borderline grades are not automatically rounded up. Decisions about “curving” are made on a case-by-case basis at the end of the semester. The factors I will take into consideration in assigning a grade in borderline cases include attendance, quality of class participation, and whether assignments have been turned in on time. Instructor decisions on grades are FINAL, and grades will **not** be changed except in cases of clerical error. Please do not contact me at the end of the semester and ask me to change your grade.

*Exams* are closed-book, mixed-format (short-answer, short essay, multiple-choice, true-false, fill-in-the-blank) examinations based on the material covered in the preceding section of the course (including textbook, lectures, discussions, class presentations, films, and other material presented during the class). They will emphasize the material in the preceding section of the course (although some cumulative information may be included). Each exam is worth 100 points; thus, there are 300 points from exams. The exam times are noted on the class schedule on the back page. **Makeup exams will not be given.** Short summer session is a very concentrated instructional period, and my time will be completely taken up each day with instructional preparation and grading. I will not have time to write exams early, nor will I have time to give makeup exams later. **Plan to be here each Friday for the exams.** Any student who misses an exam will be given an all-essay cumulative makeup test worth 100 points during the final exam period (July 6). The only exceptions to this policy will be unexpected, unusual situations that sometimes arise (death, hospitalization); these situations will require documentation, and decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis. Routine illness will not, unfortunately, result in a makeup exam being given.

The other 200 points in class will come from your class participation / attendance grade, and assigned papers and class presentations. Daily attendance is required. Assignments will be described in class and on webct.

### Course Policies for PSYC 3100

*Students with disabilities* should see me as soon as possible, and provide a letter from the UGA Disability Services Office describing what special accommodations you might require. I will be happy to work with you in any way you need.

A grade of “*incomplete*” is not an option except in extremely rare circumstances, and must be approved by the instructor. It is not an option if you are failing the course (see the Undergraduate Bulletin).

A student may *withdraw* from the class prior to the midpoint of the semester (June 21), but you are only guaranteed a grade of “W” if you are passing the course (see the Undergraduate Bulletin).

*Assignments* are due at the beginning of the class period in which they are due. \*Do not email\* assignments to Dr. Frick using regular email; you may only use the assignments tool in webct (if available) or the webct email (this will be demonstrated in class). This provides a verifiable method of determining whether assignments have been turned in or not. You have to be sure to “attach” the paper, and you are responsible for making sure you do this correctly. Late assignments may be turned in for 24 hours for no more than half-credit; more than 24 hours after the due date, late assignments will not be accepted.

*Attendance and preparation for class* are expected. You are responsible for all class content and announcements whether you are present or not. It is important that you complete reading assignments before coming to class because lectures, discussions, and activities assume you are already familiar with the material. I may give unannounced pop quizzes if I feel students are not completing the readings prior to coming to class.

*Attendance* will be taken daily (both at the beginning and end of class) and is required. The UGA Academic Affairs policy on attendance is available online. We only meet 17 times and thus missing any day is problematic. One class day of our class is 120 minutes of instructional time; one *week* of a regular semester class is 150 minutes of instructional time. Thus, missing one day of summer school is equivalent to nearly one week of a regular semester class. You are expected to be present for the entirety of the class period. **Every student is allowed one absence; after that, your attendance grade will be lowered by 10% every day.** If you know ahead of time that you have a family event or vacation issue, then plan ahead for that day to be your one absence. I will not be in the business of checking doctor’s notes or verifying illnesses. If you find yourself so ill that you are not able to attend class for an extended length of time, then I would recommend seeking a medical withdrawal from the class. The way this class is structured is dependent on student participation, so your presence here is essential. In addition to the above policy, poor attendance will greatly reduce your likelihood of a borderline grade being “bumped” up. Finally, I will withdraw from class any student who does not attend the first two lectures of the semester without contacting me (to allow students wishing to add the class to join).

***It is expected*** that students will read the books thoroughly. There is not time in class to cover everything discussed in the book; class periods will be used to highlight important topics and go into more depth on difficult concepts, as well as having discussions, watching video clips, etc. Lectures will also cover some material not covered directly in the book. The exams will have questions from all course material, which includes the entire assigned textbook, all lecture and lab presentations, articles read, films, guest speakers, etc.

***Professional behavior*** is expected, including demonstrating courtesy and respect for the instructor and for other students during class. This includes turning off cell phones, not reading the newspaper during class, etc. This class may touch on some potentially controversial topics (e.g., fetal life, gender differences, the origins of sexual orientation) and it is expected that all students will show respect for the opinions and views of others that may be expressed in class. All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty" (available online). Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated; these will be discussed in more detail. But for starters, unless you are specifically instructed to work in groups on an assignment, you are to turn in homework assignments or papers that reflect your own work and thinking. You should not work with a partner and turn in what is essentially the same assignment as someone else. You are welcome to discuss ideas with classmates, but the process of writing and creating whatever you turn in should be done on your own. Plagiarism can occur when students take phrases or passages from books, articles, or the internet, and use them in their own papers without proper documentation. You need to take ideas and put them in your own words, and not just "string together" passages that other people have written, and then present it as your own thinking. Plagiarism can also occur when students turn in passages that are nearly equivalent to what someone else has written, with only a few words changed here or there. You don't have to commit "word for word" copying to plagiarize – you can also plagiarize if you turn in something that is "thought for thought" the same as someone else. The minimum penalty for violating the academic honesty policy will be a grade of "0" on the affected assignment and an automatic lowering of the final course grade one full letter grade; further penalties could include a note on your transcript, failing the class, or expulsion from the university.

***Decisions about grades*** are made carefully, and are final at the end of the semester. Please do not contact the instructor about a grade change unless there has been a clerical error which you can document. Requests to change final grades are a waste of your time as well as mine. I do not give "extra credit" or makeup assignments. Also, please note that any disputes about grades from earlier in the course must be resolved **before** "reading day" (in this case, before July 4). Once we arrive in the final exam period, your grade from earlier in the semester is set.

***I am available to meet with you*** after class or by appointment. I want you to succeed and am willing to help in any way I can; please don't wait until the last minute to get help. Summer school classes meet at a brisk pace and you need to allot sufficient time to keep up with readings on a daily basis.

**Tentative Lecture and Exam Schedule** (subject to change if necessary).  
 Assignments / readings are listed for the day they are due

<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignment or Reading</b>
R	June 8	Introduction and history	
F	June 9		
M	June 12		
T	June 13		
W	June 14		
R	June 15		
F	June 16	Exam 1	
M	June 19		
T	June 20		
W	June 21		(midterm withdrawal deadline)
R	June 22		
F	June 23	Exam 2	
M	June 25		
T	June 26		
W	June 27	Student presentations and discussions	
R	June 28	Student presentations and discussions	
F	June 29	Student presentations and discussions	
MT	July 3-4	NO CLASS	
W	July 5	Review	
R	July 6	Final Exam	