

**PROSEMINAR IN DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY, CRN#: 39850
Fall, 2003**

Instructor:	Dr. Sharon Nelson-Le Gall, legall@pitt.edu
Office:	3407 Sennott Square
Class Meets:	Mondays, 9:00am to 12:00pm, 4117 SQ
Phone:	412-624-1350
Office Hours:	TBA

Course Description:

This course is a survey of some of the major theoretical systems and current issues in developmental psychology. The course is divided into three major sections:

- Foundations
- Cognitive development
- Social development.

Members of the University of Pittsburgh faculty and other guest speakers with expertise in the given week's topic are in charge of the class for that session. They generate the readings, organize and present the material, develop and grade the essay exam questions. This format serves both to expose you to the faculty in the developmental area and to provide you the most up-to-date, expert presentation of current thinking in the field.

This course will have a site on COURSE WEB. I will attempt to place as much of the course material on this site as possible to facilitate course communications and exchange of course documents.

Grading: Grades will be based on class participation and exam performance.

At the end of each major section, a class session is devoted to discussion and integration of that section's material. You will be required to prepare and distribute class discussion questions for these three sessions. Three take-home essay exams will be administered: one at the end of each section. For each exam, you will have to write three 5-7 page essays chosen from among 6-10 questions. You will have one week to complete each exam. Students will have one week after the relevant discussion/integration session to write essay exams, after which I will distribute them to the relevant faculty for grading. Presenters aim to return the graded exams to me within 10 days of receiving them.

Textbook:

The textbook ordered for this course is Bornstein, M. & Lamb, M. (Eds.), (1999). *Developmental psychology: An advanced textbook, 4th edition*. Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum. The weekly readings may be assigned from this book and/or from other sources identified by the presenter. Every attempt will be made to have the readings for a class available to you at least one week in advance. *Readings will be limited to approximately 100 pages per week.*

Date	Speaker(s)	Topic	Readings* to be assigned
9/25	Sharon Nelson-Le Gall	Organization & orientation	
9/8	Robert Wozniak Bryn Mawr	History & systems	
9/15	Robert McCall	Research Methodology/ Applied vs Basic Research	
9/22	Michael Pogue-Geile	Genetic influences: Behavior genetics and development	
9/29	Sharon Nelson-Le Gall	Cultural-contextual issues	
10/6	Sharon Nelson-Le Gall	Discussion and integration	
10/13	Mark Strauss	Infant Perceptual/ Infant Cognitive Development	
10/20	Carl Johnson	Cognitive Development	
10/27	Jennifer Ganger, Jana Iverson, & Suzanne Curtin	Language Development	
11/03	Sharon Nelson-Le Gall	Discussion and integration	
11/10	Susan Campbell & Celia Brownell	Peer Relationships	
11/17	Celia Brownell & Jeffrey Cohn	Infant social & emotional development	
11/24	Daniel Shaw & Kay Jennings	Family Influences	
11/01	Sharon Nelson-Le Gall		
11/08	Sharon Nelson-Le Gall	Discussion and integration	

*** Reading assignments should not exceed 100 pages/week**