Welcome to PSY 339!
Behavior Problems of Children
Spring 2015 Unique # 42655

Instructor: Kirsten Bradbury, Ph.D.
Office (Hours):
Email: bradbury@utexas.edu

 TA: Amelia
Office (Hours):
Email:
We are here to help you – please take advantage of our office hours. Come see us!!

Required Text:
Mash & Wolfe (2016). <u>Abnormal Child Psychology</u> (6th ed); Cengage.

Earlier editions are unacceptable. An e-book is available through the publisher's website. Additional readings may be assigned.

Course Description:
Lecture course covering up-to-date information on a wide range of clinical problems in children and adolescents, including normal and abnormal development, assessment and diagnosis, theories and causes, ethical principles and application, effective helping techniques and parenting, as well as other aspects of developmental psychopathology and clinical work with children.

This course addresses the following four core objectives established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board: communication skills, critical thinking skills, empirical and quantitative skills, and social responsibility. Only one of the following may be counted: Human Development and Family Sciences 339, 342, Psychology 339.

Prerequisites: For psychology majors, upper-division standing and Psychology 301 and 418 with a grade of at least C in each; for non-majors, upper-division standing, Psychology 301 with a grade of at least C, and one of the following with a grade of at least C: Biology 318M, Civil Engineering 311S, Economics 329, Educational Psychology 371, Electrical Engineering 351K, Government 350K, Mathematics 316, 362K, Mechanical Engineering 335, Psychology 317, Sociology 317L, Social Work 318, Statistics 309, Statistics and Scientific Computation 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 318.

Exams:
There will be five exams. The first four exams will be given during regular class times. Exam 5 is given only during the assigned final exam time for the course. Exams will include free-response and multiple-choice items. Exams may include items requiring students to have completed a pre-exam assignment; if this occurs, you will be given this information in class as part of the assignment. All exams are cumulative (cover all previous material from lectures and assigned readings). You are responsible for text material whether or not it is covered in class and for lecture material whether or not it is covered in the text**.** Information about any curve, dropped items, etc., will be provided following each exam. The top four exam scores are counted, such that we drop your lowest exam grade and each of the remaining four exams is worth **25%** of your grade in the course. *If you are satisfied with your course grade based on the first four exams, you may opt out of the final exam.* If you miss an exam during the semester, you will need to take the final exam. There is <u>NO EXTRA CREDIT</u>.

Make-Up Exams: If you miss an exam, you don't make it up – this simply becomes your dropped exam grade. However, if you are unfortunate enough to miss (or need to reschedule) TWO exams this semester, and you hope to be allowed to take a make-up exam the second time, you must convince Dr. B or Amelia that you have a good reason. Documentation is very convincing, but the right attitude will probably suffice. Please, do not ask to take a make-up exam for the first exam you miss.

Attendance

I have been convinced by students over the years that class attendance is *crucial* for doing well in my courses (a lot of the exam material comes from my lectures!!). Attendance, however, is in no way *mandatory*. You will come to class because you want to learn what there is to be learned there, because you enjoy it, etc. We do not take attendance. If you happen to need to miss class, we will not judge you or dock your points or otherwise penalize you. Indeed, we will assume that you are absent from class because you need to be, and we will do anything we can to help you catch up when you return. We are on your side. *Please do not come to class sick!*

Grades:

Your course grade is based on your total points score for the four exams on which you did the best. There are five exams, but we drop your lowest exam grade. We add together all the points you earned on the remaining four exams, then we divide by **4** to yield a percentage score. This percentage score is represented as a letter grade for the course using the following grade distribution:

A = 92 and up **C+ = 78-79**
A- = 90-91 **C = 72-77**
B+ = 88-89 **C- = 70-71**
B = 82-87 **D = 60-69**
B- = 80-81 **F =59 and down**

Percentage course grades are calculated to two decimal places and rounded to the nearest whole number, such that, for example, the lowest A- is 89.50 (rounds to 90).

Borderline Grades Stay Borderline: Every semester, some students score just below the borderline of the next highest grade. I have great sympathy for people who find themselves in that position, but I have also found that raising those grades simply uncovers a new group of people whose grades are near the new borderline. This situation makes everybody edgy. Therefore, my policy must be that borderline grades stay as they are. Thus, for example, an 89.49 is a B+.

THERE IS NO EXTRA CREDIT.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:
The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-4641 TTY.

We care about all our students' learning abilities. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to improve the learning environment for you or otherwise assist you in achieving the highest level of success you can in this course.

See the **Course Calendar** for exam dates, lecture topics, and specific reading assignments. In addition to being distributed in class, this syllabus and the course calendar are posted on the class Canvas page. I typically post lecture slides and other course materials to Canvas also. If you encounter difficulties accessing course materials, please speak with either Dr. B or Amelia about it.