

PSY4930 Special Topics in DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOPATHOLOGY

Section M11B (20677) & D71L (20690)

Spring 2026

Welcome! *PSY 4930 Developmental Psychopathology* is an upper-level undergraduate course examining developmental psychopathology through the lens of empirical research and practical application. We explore how psychological disorders emerge and evolve across the lifespan, with attention to gene–environment interplay, longitudinal trajectories, and mechanisms of risk and resilience. Students will engage with landmark and cutting-edge studies, critically evaluate research methodologies, and consider how findings inform practice and translational science.

Course Format: Asynchronous

Course credits: 3

Instructor: Feihong Wang, Ph.D.

Email: feihongw@ufl.edu

Zoom Office Hour: Tuesdays 11am-12pm Or by appointment

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/99973995198?pwd=S2JKcTBmRVdQYWVMV2JSZEILQ1dNdz09>

Meeting ID: 999 7399 5198

Passcode: 905581

Physical Office Location: Psychology Building #374

Graduate Teaching Assistant: TBD

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant: Amanda Collazo

* The best way to contact me and the GTA is via CANVAS messengers. Always contact the GTA first with questions. Email me directly only in cases where your issues cannot be resolved by the GTAs, if the question needs my individual attention, or if the question is related to the final grades. Phone meeting is available per request and by appointment only (please use Canvas Inbox to schedule a phone meeting)

* *Please allow 24 hrs. to respond to your emails during the weekdays. Emails sent on the weekend will be responded during the following weekdays. **Please include PSY4930** in the subject line for easy track of communication.*

* You may interact with my UTA via the Chat Room discussion boards on CANVAS. Please DO NOT email or messenger my UTA.

Course Learning Objectives

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

- demonstrate knowledge of the basic terminology, principles, and research methods of developmental psychopathology.
- examine the major disorders, dysfunctions, and conditions of child and adolescent psychopathology as related to their possible etiologies and developmental courses, and research-based prevention and treatment approaches as applicable
- demonstrate cultural awareness and knowledge of the development of child and adolescent psychopathology and its prevention and treatment and gain global perspective
- gain skills to conduct systematic literature review, critically evaluate the presentation of scientific ideas and research in original science papers as well as the popular media and synthesize and summarize the key findings from a literature.
- gain oral presentation skills to communicate and disseminate facts, trends, highlights and gaps in developmental psychopathology field across the world
- develop an infographic for community awareness for real-world connection.

Prerequisite Knowledge & Technology Requirements

- Prerequisite Courses: CLP3144 Abnormal Psychology & DEP3053 Developmental Psychology
- Proficiency in using CANVAS, using CANVAS messenger and email with attachments as needed
- Proficiency in downloading and installing zoom
- Proficiency in using office words and excel files for learning reviews and preparations for assignments
- Access to a laptop or desktop computer with webcam (external or internal) with broadband internet access, compatible web browser, audio input, built-in, or external computer speakers. Click <https://it.ufl.edu/get-help/student-computer-recommendations/> for specific computer requirements
- Proficiency in using online libraries and databases as well as computer networks to locate and gather appropriate information
- Proficiency in using online search tools for specific academic purposes, including the ability to use search criteria, keywords, and filters
- Proficiency in analyzing digital information for credibility, currency, and bias (e.g., disinformation, misinformation) as well as properly citing information sources

Required Readings

- Select chapters from Beauchaine, T. P. & H. S. P. (2013). *Child and Adolescent psychopathology* with links provided on CANVAS
- Empirical and review articles provided on CANVAS

Instructional materials for this course consist of only those materials specifically reviewed, selected, and assigned by the instructor. The instructor is only responsible for these instructional materials.

Course Requirements



Roundtable Time Discussion (120 points): In each of Module 1-12 during the semester, there is a Roundtable Time discussion board assignment for you to share your learning with peers and engage in discussion of the relevant topics for further understanding and mastery. Roundtable discussions are due on **Sundays**. See the specific instruction on CANVAS.



Online Unit Quiz (120 points): Every other week, there is an open-book open-note unit quiz to assess your knowledge and mastery of the contents from the relevant modules. Unit quizzes are **due on Saturdays 11:59pm**. You have two chances for each quiz. The higher grade will count toward your final grade.



Systematic Literature Review and Presentation Project (310 points): This is a group project with systemic review of literature on relevant topics of your choice. There are five phases of this project with two final products: one final systematic literature review paper and one infographic presentation contributing to mental health advocacy and awareness. **All project phase due dates are Sundays**. See CANVAS for details for each phase of submission.

Grading Scale (550 points total)

Mandatory Assignments	Points	Maxim. Percentage of Grade
Weekly discussion board (12X10@each)	120	21.82%
Unit quizzes (6X20@each)	120	21.82%
Group Final Systematic literature review and presentation project Phase I project planning: 30 Phase II intro and methods: 50 Phase III result and summary: 50 Phase IV final paper: 90 Phase V: infographic presentation: 90	310	56.36%

I will make every effort to release quiz grades and summary and have each discussion assignment graded and feedback posted within one week of the due dates and have project graded and feedback posted within 1-2 weeks.

Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
Percentage	93-100	90-92.4	87-89.4	83-86.4	80-82.4	77-79.4	73-76.4	70-72.4	67-69.4	63-66.4	60-62.4	<60
GPA Equivalency	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.00	2.67	2.33	2.00	1.67	1.33	1.00	0.67	0.00

Note: Final total percentage points with a decimal value equal to or greater than .5 will be rounded to the next number. For further information about current UF grading policies for assigning grade points, please see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

Course Policies

Late Work Policy:

Requirements for make-up quizzes, assignments, and other work in the course are consistent with university policies. See <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/> for more information regarding the University Attendance Policies.

Specifically, late work for any of the discussion and unit quizzes are NOT accepted for two major reasons:

1. You have been given sufficient or extended periods of time to complete these required assignments so you do have time to catch up as needed within and across the weeks.
2. Time management is an essential life and academic skill. I would like to challenge you to demonstrate your efficient time management skills by completing work on time. So no procrastination please.

That said, if there is an **unforeseeable extreme situation** (e.g., hospitalization, severe accidents, etc.) that has kept you from completing work **for a lengthy period of time, do email me with justification and proof ASAP. I am willing to work out a solution with you in that case.**

For the systematic literature review project submission across phases, late submission should be done via email to me directly. Late submissions **will incur a 20% point deduction for each 24-hour period past the due date.**

Extra Credits:

Extra credits may be available occasionally as needed such as the extra-credit self-introduction discussion posts and interview with an international expert for the project submission. These opportunities are offered to the whole class to facilitate learning with a fixed deadline and no make-up opportunities at all. Seize the opportunity when it occurs! ☺

Course Technology:

The students will be required to have access and use a personal computer with the access to the Internet.

This course is facilitated 100% online through Canvas. You may access Canvas from [UF's e-Learning webpage](#). if you have any technical difficulties with Canvas. please contact the [UF Help Desk](#).

Course Communication:

Students can communicate directly with the instructor regarding the course material through the course management system (CANVAS). Electronic communication must demonstrate a formal tone and style and, unless absolutely urgent, will be responded to M-F from 9am to 5pm.

Online Course Evaluation:

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

University Policies

This course complies with all UF academic policies. For information on those policies and for resources for students, please see [this link](#). (The direct link is <https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>). Below are some highlighted policies.

Academic Conduct:

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code”. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor of this class.

The [Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code](#) states that: "A Student must not represent as the Student's own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

- Stealing, misquoting, insufficiently paraphrasing, or patch-writing.
- Self-plagiarism, which is the reuse of the Student's own submitted work, or the simultaneous submission of the Student's own work, without the full and clear acknowledgment and permission of the Faculty to whom it is submitted.
- Submitting materials from any source without proper attribution.
- Submitting a document, assignment, or material that, in whole or in part, is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment the Student did not author."

*Note **ChatGPT or other AI tools are making life much more convenient. But learning is not about taking the short cut.** For all the assignments I design for my students, I aim to challenge my students to exercise their critical thinking, written communication skills, and content mastery. If you take this shortcut, you underserve yourselves in gaining authentic learning experiences for academic improvement and growth. If you copy and paste what ChatGPT produces for you, that piece of work is no longer your own genuine work. As such, **AI generated work is considered as plagiarism with significant consequences in this class.** Stay away from it for your own authentic learning benefits!*

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (<https://disability.ufl.edu/get-started/>) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Sexual Harassment & Disclosures of Sexual Violence

Sexual Harassment is not tolerated in this class, in the Department of Psychology, or at the University of Florida. Sexual harassment includes: the inappropriate introduction of sexual activities or comments in a situation where sex would otherwise be irrelevant. Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination and a violation of state and federal laws as well as of the policies and regulations of the university. All UF employees and students must adhere to UF's sexual harassment policy which can be found here: <https://hr.ufl.edu/forms-policies/policies-managers/sexual-harassment/>. Please review this policy and contact a university official if you have any questions about the policy.

As mandatory reporters, university employees (e.g., administrators, managers, supervisors, faculty, teaching assistants, staff) are required to report knowledge of sexual harassment to UF's Title IX coordinator. Title IX violation includes sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking, domestic/intimate partner violence, etc. For assistance or to inform Title IX any incident(s) that may constitute a Title IX violation, please complete the Title IX Information Form here: <https://titleix.ufl.edu/title-ix-reporting-form/>, or email inform@titleix.ufl.edu, or call 352-273-1094.

In-Class Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Class Demeanor or Netiquette

It is important to recognize that the online classroom is, in fact, a classroom, and certain behaviors are expected when you communicate with both your peers and your instructors. You are expected to follow the Netiquette Guide for Online Courses when interacting with your instructor and other students in this course. [<https://teach.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.docx>]

Attendance

Requirements for class attendance are consistent with university policies. See <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/> for more information regarding the University Attendance Policies. While in-person attendance is not built into the course requirements since this is an asynchronous online course, regular virtual interaction with the course website and course materials each week throughout the semester is strongly recommended to keep you on track for learning success.

Software Use

All faculty, staff, and students of the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University

policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Course Incompletes:

A grade of Incomplete “I” will only be given in extreme circumstances (i.e., illness) and must be pre-approved by the instructor. If approved, a contract will be drawn up with the student specifying assignments and due dates. According to the University, all incomplete work must be completed by the following semester or you will receive a punitive incomplete (i.e., the same as an “E”).

Tentative Course Schedule			
Week	Dates	Chapter(s)/Topics	Assignments
1	1/12-1/18 Drop/add Week	Module 1: Introduction to Developmental Psychopathology	All project and discussion assignments are due Sundays; All quizzes due Saturdays
2	1/19-1/25	Module 2: Risk and Resilience in child and adolescent psychopathology	
3	1/26-2/1	Module 3: genetic and neurobiological influences on psychopathology	Unit 1 quiz (Module 1 & 2) due 1/31 Phase 1 project planning submission due 2/1
4	2/2-2/8	Module 4: Temperamental vulnerability to psychopathology	
5	2/9-2/15	Module 5: Trauma, Maltreatment, and Stress Neurobiology	Unit 2 quiz (Module 3 & 4) due 2/14
6	2/16-2/22	Module 6: Early attachment and psychopathology	
7	2/23-3/1	Module 7: Externalizing Disorders (ODD, CD)	Unit 3 quiz (Module 5 & 6) due 2/28
8	3/2-3/8	Module 8: Substance Use Disorders in Adolescence	Phase II intro. & methods 3/1
9	3/9-3/15	Module 9: Internalizing Disorders (Depression)	Unit 4 quiz (Module 7 & 8) due 3/14
10	3/16-3/22	Spring Break Week Take a Break or Catch Up!	
11	3/23-3/29	Module 10: Internalizing Disorders (Anxiety)	Phase 2 project paper due Phase III results & discussion 3/29
12	3/30-4/5	Module 11: Borderline Personality and Self Inflicted Injury	Unit 5 quiz (Module 9 & 10) due 3/28

13	4/6-4/12	Module 12: Eating Disorders and Emerging Adulthood Risks	Final paper due 4/12
14	4/13-4/19	Module 13: Final Integration: Research in Developmental Psychopathology Since the pandemic	Unit 6 quiz (Module 11& 12) due 4/18
15	4/20-4/26	Module 14: Final Presentation: DP for Mental Health Advocacy	Final infographics due 4/26

Campus Resources

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please email umatter@ufl.edu, call 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter We Care to refer or report a concern, and a team member will reach out to the student in distress. [<http://umatter.ufl.edu>]

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the UF Counseling & Wellness Center website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services and non-crisis services. [<https://counseling.ufl.edu/>]

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need or visit the UF Student Health Care Center website. [<https://shcc.ufl.edu/>]

UF Health Shands Emergency Room/Trauma Center: For immediate medical care in Gainesville, call 352-733-0111, or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Shands Emergency Room/Trauma Center website. [<http://ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center>]

University Police Department: Visit the UF Police Department website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies). [<http://police.ufl.edu>]

Academic Resources

E-learning Technical Support: 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu. [<https://it.ufl.edu/helpdesk/>]

Career Connections Center: 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. [<https://career.ufl.edu/>]

Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. [<http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>]

Academic Resources: 352-392-2010. Tutoring, test reviews, language studio, video resources, supplemental instructions, etc. [<https://academicresources.clas.ufl.edu/about-us/>]

Writing Studio: 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. [<http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>]

On-Line Students Complaints: [<https://pfs.tnt.aa.ufl.edu/state-authorization-status/#student-complaint>]

Tips for Success

Taking a course online can be a lot of fun! Here are some tips that will help you get the most of this course while taking full advantage of the online format:

- Come to class and be really present both physically and mentally.
- Check and do the coursework on time each week. You can receive 0 points for work that is turned in late!
- Read ALL of the material contained on this site. There is a lot of helpful information that can save you time and help you meet the objectives of the course.
- Print out the Course Summary located in the Course Syllabus and check things off as you go.
- Ask for help or clarification of the material if you need it.
- Do not wait to ask questions! Waiting to ask a question might cause you to miss a due date.
- Do your work well before the due dates. Sometimes things happen. If your computer goes down when you are trying to submit an assignment, you'll need time to troubleshoot the problem.
- To be extra safe, back up your work to an external hard drive, thumb drive, or through a cloud service.

Together, let's make it a fun and successful semester! ☺☺☺