

## SYLLABUS

### **Psych 187, Development of Social Cognition**

Winter 2009

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30 to 10:50

1350 McGill Hall

### **Gail Heyman, Professor of Psychology**

office: 3109 McGill Hall

office hours: Tuesdays at 10:50 to 12:00, and by appointment

email: gheyman@ucsd.edu

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### **Participation (60 points)**

Students will receive points for attending class regularly, participating in class discussions and assigned activities, and submitting weekly *comments* and six *discussion assignments*, which are due on most Fridays.

### **Exams**

#### **Midterm and Final (50 points each)**

Students will be tested on their knowledge and application of course material.

### **Research Paper (40 points)**

Students will write a proposal to solve a real-world problem related to one of the following: critical/flexible thinking, achievement motivation, peer relations, or emotional well-being. Students should (1) describe and justify the importance of the problem they will solve, (2) provide an overview of their approach to solving the problem that makes clear connections to existing research, and (3) describe how the success of the program will be assessed. The proposal should be about five double-spaced pages in length, and must cite a minimum of three sources, including two empirical sources.

### **Grades**

You will need to receive 93% of the possible points to receive an A, 90% to receive an A-, 87% to receive a B+, and so forth.

## SCHEDULE

January 6 & 8	Introduction to Social Cognition and Methods
January 13 & 15	Young Children's Reasoning about Mental Life
January 20 & 22	Emotional Development
January 27 & 29	Sociomoral Reasoning
February 3, 5, & 10	Achievement Motivation
February 12	<b>Midterm Exam</b>
February 17 & 19	Persuasion and Learning from Others
February 24 & 26	Culture and Development
March 3 & 5	Gender Role Understanding
March 10 & 12	Peer Relations and Reasoning about Bias
March 17 (Tuesday) 8:00-11:00 a.m.	<b>Final Exam</b>

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## ASSIGNMENTS AND READINGS

January 9	upload to WebCT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Comment #1</b> on <i>Meltzoff-1995.pdf</i>, <i>Akhtar-Tomasello-2000.pdf</i></li></ul>
January 16	upload to WebCT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Comment #2</b> on <i>Lewis-2000.pdf</i>, <i>Saarni-VonSalisch-1993.pdf</i></li><li>• <b>Discussion Assignment #1</b>: write down three ways in which you might assess healthy emotional development</li></ul>
January 23	upload to WebCT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Comment #3</b> on <i>Dunn-2006.pdf</i>, <i>DePaulo-Kashy-1998.pdf</i></li><li>• <b>Discussion Assignment #2</b>: describe two real-life moral dilemmas</li></ul>
January 30	upload to WebCT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Comment #4</b> on <i>Covington-2000.pdf</i>, <i>Steele-1997.pdf</i></li><li>• <b>Discussion Assignment #3</b>: describe the motivational profiles of two people</li></ul>
February 5	<b>first draft of research paper</b> due in class
February 13	upload to WebCT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Comment #5</b> on <i>Moses-Baldwin-2005.pdf</i>, <i>Harris-Gimenez-2005.pdf</i></li></ul>
February 20	upload to WebCT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Comment #6</b> on <i>Miller-Wiley-1997.pdf</i>, <i>Heyman-Fu-Lee-2007.pdf</i></li><li>• <b>Discussion Assignment #4</b>: write a short interview about parental expectations, and ask your questions of two people from different cultural backgrounds</li></ul>
February 26	<b>final copy of research paper</b> due in class
February 27	upload to WebCT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Comment #7</b> on <i>Martin-Ruble-2004.pdf</i>, <i>NolenHoeksema-Girgus-1994.pdf</i></li><li>• <b>Discussion Assignment #5</b>: write a short interview addressing some aspect of gender roles, and ask at least two people your questions</li></ul>
March 6	upload to WebCt: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Comment #8</b> on <i>Juvoven-Gross-2005.pdf</i>, <i>SpearsBrown-Bigler-2005.pdf</i></li><li>• <b>Discussion Assignment #6</b>: write a short summary of a popular press article on peer relations</li></ul>