

PSYC 420 – SURVEY OF DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

Fall 2008

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Fridays, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Class Schedule: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30-10:45 a.m.
Bradley Arts & Sciences Building / Room #226

REQUIRED TEXT:

Feldman, R. S. (2006). Development across the life span (4th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson / Prentice-Hall.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides an overview of human development from a life span perspective. The course follows the developing person from conception through the end of life. Major areas of development are addressed at each stage of life including physical, cognitive, personality, and socioemotional development. Cultural variables influencing development in infancy, childhood, adolescence, and adulthood are examined as are issues around death and dying. The course combines theory, research, and practical applications from developmental psychology.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

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

1. Exhibit an understanding of the research process and research methods used in developmental psychology.
2. Articulate the major theoretical perspectives in developmental psychology.
3. Describe normal development in the following areas during each life stage: physical, cognitive, personality, and socioemotional.
4. Identify developmental tasks, issues, and processes of each stage of the life cycle.
5. Discuss cultural differences and their impact on development.
6. Exhibit an awareness of cultural diversity in the area of development by providing examples of various cultures' approaches to developmental periods and tasks.
7. Recognize the potential application of developmental psychology in everyday life.

EVALUATION OF STUDENTS:

Students will be evaluated by their performance on 5 exams, 4 written homework assignments and a course project paper. The exams will be in multiple choice, short answer, and short essay format and will cover lectures, text readings, films, and other supporting materials. Attendance is required and can affect students' final grades.

GRADES:

There will be a total of 310 points possible.

Grades will be based on the following:

- Exam #1.....40 points
- Exam #2.....60 points
- Exam #3.....50 points
- Exam #4.....50 points
- Exam #5.....40 points
- Homeworks (4)....40 points
- Course Project.....30 points

GRADING SCALE:

- 90-100%.....A
- 87-89%.....B+
- 80-86%.....B
- 77-79%.....C+
- 70-76%.....C
- 67-69%.....D+
- 60-66%.....D
- 0-59%.....F

CLASS POLICIES:

*Each student will have 3 unexcused absences to use during the semester. Further absences will result in a deduction of 1 point per class missed. An absence will be counted if students arrive to class late or leave early. **Students are responsible for obtaining missed notes, announcements, etc.**

*If you are absent the day of an exam, that grade must be made up within 1 week of the originally scheduled exam. There will be a 1 point deduction for any day(s) that it is delayed beyond that. Any assignment not submitted on time will also result in a deduction of 1 point per day late.

*The expectation in this class is that all members will behave in a professional and honest manner. Therefore, any student who engages in an act of academic dishonesty will receive a failing grade for that assignment or exam and will be subject to the University of South Carolina's rules and penalties. Common examples of academic dishonesty include the following: plagiarizing a paper or other written work (Note that copying from any text without references and quotation marks is one example of plagiarism.), signing in an absent student, and cheating on an exam.

*It is expected that all members of the class will be attentive and respectful and that no one will engage in disruptive behavior of any kind, behavior that would compromise the quality of the classroom experience. In the unlikelyhood that this should occur, the offending individual(s) will be asked to leave the classroom, and disciplinary action will be taken.

*Cell phones and pagers are to be in silent mode and out of sight during class (i.e. in a purse, backpack, or pocket).

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

*It is my sincere intention that this class be both informative and enjoyable for students. If you find that you are having difficulty with the course, please see me before or after class, stop in my office during office hours, or e-mail or call me. I will be most happy to assist you.

*This syllabus may be amended as necessary.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Readings</u>
August		
21	*An Introduction to Life Span Development	Chapter 1
26	“ “ “ “ “	“ “
28	*Genetics and Prenatal Development	Chapter 2
September		
2	“ “ “ “ “	“ “
4	*Birth and the Newborn Infant	Chapter 3
9	**EXAM #1**	Chapters 1, 2, 3
11	*Physical Development in Infancy	Chapter 4
16	*Cognitive Development in Infancy	Chapter 5
18	*Social and Personality Development in Infancy	Chapter 6
23	“ “ “ “ “	“ “
25	*Physical and Cognitive Development in the Preschool Years	Chapter 7
30	*Social and Personality Development in the Preschool Years	Chapter 8
October		
2	**EXAM #2**	Chapters 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
7	*Physical and Cognitive Development in Middle Childhood	Chapter 9
9	**No Class / Fall Break**	
14	*Social and Personality Development in Middle Childhood	Chapter 10
16	*Physical and Cognitive Development in Adolescence	Chapter 11
21	*Social and Personality Development in Adolescence	Chapter 12

23	**EXAM #3**	Chapters 9, 10, 11, 12
28	*Physical and Cognitive Development in Early Adulthood	Chapter 13
30	*Social and Personality Development in Early Adulthood	Chapter 14
November		
4	**No Class / Election Day	
6	*Physical and Cognitive Development in Middle Adulthood	Chapter 15
11	*Social and Personality Development in Middle Adulthood	Chapter 16
13	**EXAM #4**	Chapters 13, 14, 15, 16
18	*Physical and Cognitive Development in Late Adulthood	Chapter 17
20	*Social and Personality Development in Late Adulthood	Chapter 18
27	**No Class / Thanksgiving Break**	
December		
2	*Death and Dying	Chapter 19
4	“ “	“ “
11	**EXAM #5**	Chapters 17, 18, 19

