

PSYC 420 – SURVEY OF DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY
Spring 2012

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:00-11:00 AM
By Appointment

Class Schedule: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
Bradley Arts & Sciences Building / Room #120

REQUIRED TEXT:

Feldman, R. S. (2008). Development across the life span (5th 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.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

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. Tardiness past 10 minutes will be counted as half of an absence. After 3 absences, 5 points will be deducted from your final grade. **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, pagers, and other electronic devices must be turned OFF when in class. If one is found to be on, on vibrate, etc., you will be asked to leave class and will be counted absent. There is no text-messaging, web-browsing, etc. during class. Failure to adhere to this rule may result in your being dismissed from class.

*Speaking out in class is only permitted after you have been recognized by the Instructor.

*No newspapers or reading materials other than your textbook are allowed on your desk.

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>
January		
10, 12	*An Introduction to Life Span Development	Chapter 1
17, 19	*Genetics and Prenatal Development	Chapter 2
24	*Birth and the Newborn Infant	Chapter 3
26	**EXAM #1**	Chapters 1, 2, 3
31	*Physical Development in Infancy	Chapter 4
February		
2, 7	*Cognitive Development in Infancy	Chapter 5
9, 14	*Social and Personality Development in Infancy	Chapter 6
16	*Physical and Cognitive Development in the Preschool Years	Chapter 7
21	*Social and Personality Development in the Preschool Years	Chapter 8
23	**EXAM #2**	Chapters 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
28	*Physical and Cognitive Development in Middle Childhood	Chapter 9
March		
1	*Social and Personality Development in Middle Childhood	Chapter 10
6, 8	**NO CLASS / SPRING BREAK**	
13, 15	*Physical and Cognitive Development in Adolescence	Chapter 11
20, 22	*Social and Personality Development in Adolescence	Chapter 12

27	**EXAM #3**	Chapters 9, 10, 11, 12
29	*Physical and Cognitive Development in Early Adulthood	Chapter 13
April		
3	*Social and Personality Development in Early Adulthood	Chapter 14
5	*Physical and Cognitive Development in Middle Adulthood	Chapter 15
10	*Social and Personality Development in Middle Adulthood	Chapter 16
12	**EXAM #4**	Chapters 13, 14, 15, 16
17	*Physical and Cognitive Development in Late Adulthood	Chapter 17
19	*Social and Personality Development in Late Adulthood	Chapter 18
26 11:00 AM	**EXAM #5**	Chapters 17, 18, 19

