

Lifespan Developmental Psychology

Psych 2510-002

Spring 2012

Course Information

Class meets: TR 2:00-3:15 PM

Room: Snyder Memorial Room 2110

Required Texts: John W. Santrock (2011) *Life-span Development, 13th Edition*

Instructor Information

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Office Hours: Monday 3:00-5:00

Tuesday 3:30-5:00 or by appointment

Course Description

This course provides a basic understanding of the biological, cognitive, emotional and social changes that occur throughout the course of human life. The course will be taught from a chronological perspective, and generally breaks down into the following major age groups: conception to birth, infancy, early childhood, middle and late childhood, adolescence, early adulthood, middle adulthood, late adulthood and death and dying. The course will familiarize you with the currently accepted major theories of cognitive, emotional and social development. Additionally, topics related to the health, safety and well being of the various age groups will be discussed. By the end of this course, you should be familiar with:

1. The general course of growth and change from the beginning to the end of life.
2. Major theories of human development and the researchers who helped develop them.
3. Critical periods of learning, growth and decline throughout the human life span.
4. Disorders and risk factors associated with the various age groups.

How to Succeed in this Course

Developmental psychology is an exciting topic, and can contribute to a better understanding of how we became who we are, and what to expect when we become who we will be in the future. However, it is also a very broad topic with a great deal of information to be covered in a relatively short time period. We will move through the course material at a rapid pace during the semester, and it will be your responsibility to keep up on the course readings.

In order to be successful, you must take charge of your experiences in this class. Research shows that students learn best if they are active learners (think about the material and how it applies to your life and interests), prepared for class (the material will make more sense and be easier to remember), and use strategies to improve memory (these include note taking, making outlines, and rehearsal— i.e. practice). It is your responsibility to ask questions for any unclear material.

Class Policies

Cell phones and other loud devices are not permitted.

Arrive on time and do not leave early.

Please respect your peers and keep talking to a minimum during lectures.

Do not sleep (you're only wasting your time, and money).

Be attentive in class.

Ask questions.

You are expected to have read the chapters before classes. **A thorough understanding of the material in the textbook is essential for success in this course.** You will not be able to obtain this from a superficial reading of the chapters. The terminology from the textbook should be mastered in advance of our class meetings. Lectures will follow the general structure of the assigned textbook. However, they will not be a rote repetition of the required reading, and will contain material that is not necessarily provided in the course text.

Missed classes:

If you miss a lecture, it is your responsibility to get notes, handouts and announcements from another student. Office hours will not be used to provide materials missed due to absence or tardiness. I will, under no circumstances, provide you with materials missed due to poor attendance.

University of Toledo policy pertaining to academic integrity:

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Among the aims of education are the acquisition of knowledge and development of the skills necessary for success in any profession. Activities inconsistent with these aims will not be permitted. Students are responsible for knowing what constitutes academic dishonesty. If students are uncertain about what constitutes plagiarism or cheating they should seek the instructor's advice. Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to:

- Plagiarizing or representing the words, ideas or information of another person as one's own and not offering proper documentation;
- Giving or receiving, prior to an examination, any unauthorized information concerning the content of that examination;
- Referring to or displaying any unauthorized materials inside or outside of the examination room during the course of an examination;
- Communicating during an examination in any manner with any unauthorized person concerning the examination or any part of it;
- Giving or receiving substantive aid during the course of an examination;

- Commencing an examination before the stipulated time or continuing to work on an examination after the announced conclusion of the examination period;
- Taking, converting, concealing, defacing, damaging or destroying any property related to the preparation or completion of assignments, research or examination;
- Submitting the same written work to fulfill the requirements for more than one course.

Changes to Syllabus

The information in this syllabus is subject to change. Changes will be announced in class and through Blackboard.

Course Requirements

Exams

There will be five exams during the semester plus a final exam. Each of the five exams will have the following format: 10 multiple choice questions per chapter covered (worth 2 points each), and 1 short answer question per chapter covered (worth up to 5 points each). The final exam is cumulative and will contain 100 multiple choice questions (worth 1.5 points each), 5 questions per chapter covered.

All exams will be administered through Blackboard (<https://blackboard.utdl.edu/>). In order to maintain the integrity of each student's exam, exams must be taken in a supervised environment. The psychology computer lab, located in University Hall 5000, will be the preferred location for students to take their exams. (Exceptions can be made, given acceptable circumstances, and must be approved prior to the scheduled exam date.)

Exams will be offered for two days in order to ensure that everyone has adequate time for completion. However, the computer lab only has 26 available computers (24 PCs, 2 Macs), so waiting until the last minute to take exams is not recommended. An exact schedule of dates and times when exams can be taken will be provided once the spring 2012 computer lab schedule is available.

Extra Credit

It is often the case that life events get in the way of studying, and often students seek the benefit of extra credit to compensate for the occasional shortcoming. There will be opportunities for extra credit throughout the semester. These will include: review and write up of developmental psychology journal articles, attendance of colloquia and possibly experiment participation (an announcement will be made approximately mid-semester). However, no student will be awarded more than 24 points (4% of the total points) of extra credit.

Quizzes

Quizzes will be offered through Blackboard for each chapter. Although quizzes will not count toward your final grade, they will certainly be beneficial to those who take them. Quizzes are

intended to encourage you to keep up on the reading and will consist of multiple choice questions similar to what will be seen on the exams. The quizzes will also give you an indication of areas that you have mastered versus areas that need more study. You may re-take a quiz as often as you like. Quiz questions will be selected randomly from a pool of questions, so taking multiple quizzes per chapter will be desirable.

Grading Policy

As noted above, there will be 5 exams, and a cumulative final. The percentages and total possible points are outlined below:

Assignment	Approx. Weight	Possible Points
Exams 1 & 2	25.0% (12.5% each)	150 points (75 each)
Exams 3, 4 & 5	50.0% (16.67% each)	300 points (100 each)
Final Exam	25.0%	150 points
Total	100.0%	600 points

Letter Grades

Grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

Grade	Percentage Range	Point Range
A	93.34 - 100	560.04 - 600
A-	90 - 93.33	540 - 559.98
B+	86.67 - 89.99	520.02 - 539.94
B	83.34 - 86.66	500.04 - 519.96
B-	80 - 83.33	480 - 499.98
C+	76.67 - 79.99	460.02 - 479.94
C	73.34 - 76.66	440.04 - 459.96
C-	70 - 73.33	420 - 439.98
D+	66.67 - 69.99	400.02 - 419.94
D	63.34 - 66.66	380.04 - 399.96
D-	60 - 63.33	360 - 379.98
F	0 - 59.99	0 - 359.94

Note: There is no way to get a fraction of a point in this course. Percentages and partial points are represented in this manner to make all (or nearly all) divisions mathematically equivalent.

Tentative Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Reading
1	Jan 10	Syllabus, Introduction	
	Jan 12	Introduction & Research Methods	Chapter 1
2	Jan 17	Genetics, Heredity, & Nature vs. Nurture	Chapter 2
	Jan 19	Prenatal Development and Birth	Chapter 3
3	Jan 24	Exam 1: Intro, Conception to Birth	
	Jan 26	Infancy: Physical, Motor, and Sensory Development	Chapter 4
4	Jan 31	Infancy: Cognitive Development	Chapter 5
	Feb 2	Infancy: Emotional and Social Development	Chapter 6
5	Feb 7	Catch up, Review, & Intro to Early Childhood	Chapter 7
	Feb 9	Exam 2: Infancy	
6	Feb 14	Early Childhood: Physical, Cognitive, Emotional, & Social Development	Chapter 8
	Feb 16	Middle & Late Childhood: Physical & Cognitive Development	Chapter 9
7	Feb 21	Middle & Late Childhood: Emotional & Social Development	Chapter 10
	Feb 23	Exam 3: Early, Middle, & Late Childhood	
8	Feb 28	No Class	
	Mar 1	Adolescence: Physical & Cognitive Development	Chapter 11
9	Mar 6	No Class – Spring Break	
	Mar 8	No Class – Spring Break	
10	Mar 13	Adolescence: Emotional & Social Development	Chapter 12
	Mar 15	Early Adulthood: Physical & Cognitive Development	Chapter 13
11	Mar 20	Early Adulthood: Emotional & Social Development	Chapter 14
	Mar 22	Catch up, Review, & Intro to Middle Adulthood	Chapter 15
12	Mar 27	Exam 4: Adolescence and Early Adulthood	
	Mar 29	Middle Adulthood: Physical, Cognitive, Emotional, & Social Development	Chapter 16
13	Apr 3	Late Adulthood: Physical Development	Chapter 17

	Apr 5	Late Adulthood: Cognitive Development	Chapter 18
14	Apr 10	Exam 5: Middle and Late Adulthood	
	Apr 12	Late Adulthood: Emotional & Social Development	Chapter 19
15	Apr 17	Life endings: Death, Dying, & Grieving	Chapter 20
	Apr 19	Make Up Day	
16	Apr 24	Make Up Day	
	Apr 26	Make Up Day	
17	May 1	Final Exam	N/A
	May 2	Final Exam	N/A
	May 3	Final Exam	N/A