

MORAVIAN COLLEGE
PSYC 270 LIFESPAN DEVELOPMENT
FALL 2006

Instructor: Marcia Kaufman, Ph.D.

Office Hours: Tuesdays/Thursdays by appointment

Phone: (610) 435-4050

Email Address: Kaufmama@aol.com

Class meets Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:20-11:30 A.M.

Course Description: During the course of the semester we will be examining human development from the first moments of conception through death. We will examine physiological, cognitive, social, emotional, and behavioral changes across the lifespan and we will look at methods used by developmental psychologists to learn and describe these changes. Theories, research methods, self-assessment, and sociocultural differences will be studied as we examine how we are shaped by our genetic inheritance, the people around us, and the world we live in.

Course Objectives:

1. Acquire information and learn to think critically about various theories of human development.
2. Examine the unique research and clinical methods utilized to study human development.
3. Integrate an understanding of human development with daily living and gain an appreciation of how it affects various life choices such as friendship, romance, and vocation.
4. Critically review the relationship between genetic and sociocultural forces upon human development.
5. Gain an appreciation of physical, cognitive, emotional, and social development across the lifespan from conception through death.

Required Texts:

Berk, L. (2007). **Development through the lifespan (4th Ed.)** New York: Allyn and Bacon Publishers.

Dixon, W. (2003). **Twenty studies that revolutionized child psychology.** Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall.

Method: Confucius is credited with saying: "Tell me and I will forget; Show me and I will remember; Involve me and I will understand". In keeping with this tenet, students will be expected to be involved in our learning process. While lectures will be given, emphasis will be placed on the Socratic method of teaching and class discussion. Your expertise is valued!

Course Requirements:

1. Midterm Exam: Worth 100 points. This exam will be held during class time, and will be comprised of multiple choice, short answer, and/or comprehensive essay questions. This test will be designed to assess your ability to understand and apply course material.
2. Final Exam: Worth 100 points. This exam will be held during the finals period. Most of this exam will be non-cumulative, but an understanding and integration of the entire semester will be required for some questions. This exam will be similar in format to the midterm exam.
3. Weekly reflections: Worth 50 points. You will have an opportunity to write (approximately 1 page, typed) your reflections of what you have learned in a given week. These reflections should be turned in on Tuesdays. Ten reflections, worth 5 points each, should be turned in during the semester. You will receive points for the number of reflections completed.
4. Two 5-Page Papers: Worth 50 Points EACH. (Total Worth 100 points). One paper will be based on your group project and the second will be based on a topic, of your choice, related to adolescent or adult development. All topics must be pre-approved by the instructor. Further explanations and requirements will be reviewed in class. The paper based on your group project is due at the time of your presentation. All papers must be written using APA style.
5. Group Project: Worth 50 Points. The class will be divided into groups and each group will explore a topic designated by the instructor. The topics will include: resiliency, attachment, cognitive development, parenting styles, temperament, aggression, perception, object permanence, language development, and the debate between nature and nurture. Each group will give a 20 minute presentation to the class and each group member will generate his or her own 5 page paper based on his or her research. The Dixon text will be the basis for your research, but you are expected to use other sources as well. Further explanations and requirements will be reviewed in class.
6. Homework /Class Participation: Worth 50 points. It is felt that active involvement promotes the learning process. Being prepared for class by having read the assignments, participating in class discussions, and completing assigned homework will therefore be evaluated.
7. Attendance: You are encouraged to attend all classes. Attendance will be noted at each class meeting. Since class participation will contribute to your overall grade, if you miss class or come unprepared this has the potential of negatively affecting your grade. If you must miss a class, you are responsible for obtaining missed notes, discussion material, and any announcements.
8. Grading Criteria:
 - 450-419 points= A
 - 418-405 points=A-
 - 404-392 points=B+
 - 391-374 points=B
 - 373-360 points=B-
 - 359-347 points=C+
 - 346-329 points=C
 - 328-315 points=C-

314-302 points=D+
 301-284 points=D
 283-270 points=D-
 Below 270 points=F

9. Due Dates and Exam Dates: Exams must be taken on the scheduled dates unless extreme circumstances exist (i.e. a serious illness, death in immediate family). A valid excuse will be given only when accompanied by an official note from a physician or campus official indicating the necessity of the absence. Otherwise, no tests will be rescheduled. If a student does need to postpone an exam after receiving approval from the instructor, an essay exam may be given, at the discretion of the instructor. Late assignments and papers will drop one grade per day late beginning in the class when it is due. (i.e. from A to B). Assignments and papers that are 4 days late will automatically receive a grade of F. It is the student's responsibility to get the paper to the instructor if it is not during a class period (i.e., if it is late and you want credit for the days in between classes).
10. Policy on Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the intentional use of another person's work, misrepresenting that work as your own. All outside sources (i.e., any idea that is not your own) must be properly cited. Having someone write a paper for you, relying on the course files from a fraternity or sorority, or purchasing papers from a professional writing service are not acceptable methods for satisfying course requirements. The Psychology Department requires that students keep notes, note cards, rough drafts, etc. for papers until a course grade is given. A course instructor may request the above material at any time. Plagiarism will be dealt with in accordance with the new college policy on academic honesty.
11. This syllabus is subject to change.
12. Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Learning Services Office as soon as possible to enhance the likelihood that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE

Topics	Readings	Dates
Introduction Review syllabus/group assignments		8/29/06
Theory and Research	Berk, 1; Dixon Intro	8/31/06
Biology/Environment	Berk, 2	9/5/06
Risk and Resiliency	Dixon, 17&18	9/7/06
Prenatal/Birth/Newborn	Berk, 3	9/12/06
Attachment	Dixon 10,11,12	9/14/06

Topics	Readings	Dates
Catch up/ Presentations Resiliency & Attachment		9/19/06
Physical Development Infant & Toddler Adolescent/adult topic due	Berk, 4	9/21/06
Cognitive Development Infant & Toddler	Dixon, 8,9 Berk, 5	9/26/06
Cognitive Development cont. Language Group Presentation		9/28/06
Emotional/Social Infant & Toddler	Berk, 6 Dixon, 5,6,13,14,16	10/3/06
Temperament/ Parenting, Object Permanence Presentations	Continued	10/5/06
Fall Recess- NO CLASS		10/10/06
Catch-up/Review for midterm		10/12/06
MIDTERM EXAM		10/17/06
Physical/cognitive Early Childhood	Berk, 7 Dixon, 2,3,4	10/19/06
Physical/cognitive cont. Cognitive Group Presentation	Continued	10/24/06
Emotional/Social Dev't Early Childhood	Berk, 8	10/26/06
Physical/Cognitive Development Middle Childhood	Berk, 9	10/31/06
Emotional/Social Development Middle Childhood	Berk, 10	11/2/06
Catch-up Nature/nurture Presentation	Dixon, 19,22	11/7/06

Topics	Readings	Dates
Adolescence Adolescent/Adult Paper Due	Berk, 11	11/9/06
Adolescence continued	Berk, 12	11/14/06
Early Adulthood	Berk, 13	11/16/06
Early Adulthood Continued	Berk, 14	11/21/06
Thanksgiving- NO CLASS		11/23/06
Middle Adulthood	Berk, 15,16	11/28/06
Late Adulthood	Berk 17,18	11/30/06
Death and Dying	Berk 19	12/5/06
Catch up and Review		12/7/06
Final Exam		TBA