

**Psychology 207  
Life-Span Development  
Moravian College  
Fall 2008**

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**Class Time:** TR 10:20-11:30 am  
**Office Hours:** TR 12:00-2:00 pm  
By appointment as needed also

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**Course Goal**

Life-Span Development focuses on the study of individual development as a life-long process. Representative theories, research, and controversial issues on conception and birth, infancy, childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and old age are examined. Biological, cognitive, social, and emotional aspects of development will be explored. The major focus of the course is to help the student gain insight into the multidimensional process of aging.

**Specific Course Objectives**

- To introduce the subject matter of the human being from conception through old age.
- To explore a number of current social and ethical issues which are a part of current life-span development.
- To encourage application of cognitive, psychosexual, psychosocial, and moral theories to understand growth and development across the lifespan.
- To expose the latest findings in developmental psychology in order to understand issues unique to each stage of development.
- To stimulate and challenge critical thinking and discussion among class participants.

**Required Reading**

Berk, L.E. (2007). Development through the lifespan (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

Readings as assigned.

## **Course Requirements**

### **Demonstration of Course Competency**

1. Exams: Students will complete 3 examinations. Specifications in terms of format will be presented prior to the exam. (i.e. multiple choice, case studies, take home etc). There will not be a final examination.
2. Movie Critique: Each student will complete a written movie critique that correlates theory with specific themes in the movie. The paper will be written in APA format.
3. Field Observation: Each student will be randomly assigned to observe/interact with an individual in his/her environment. The individuals will range from neonate through the elderly.

### **Grading:**

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Examinations (3)  | 60% |
| Movie Critique    | 20% |
| Field Observation | 20% |

**Class Participation:** Class attendance is required. Students are expected to be prepared for all class meetings; that means having completed assignments prior to attending class. Please arrive promptly in order to avoid distractions to other students. Tardiness will not be tolerated. If unable to attend a class due to illness, please contact the instructor at least one hour before class via email or phone. Any absence from class must be accompanied by an appropriate written verification of absence (doctor's /nurse practitioner's note for illness or other written verification of emergency circumstances). Absences without this appropriate written verification will be considered as unexcused. Based on a 4 point scale, a grade point reduction of .25 may be taken off the final course grade for each unexcused absence or tardiness. Students are responsible for obtaining any notes, handouts, or other class items from classmates. In order to promote full engaged, cell phones will be turned off.

**Inclement Weather:** College policy will be followed relative to inclement weather. Please check the College web-site or call (610) 625-7995 for any announcements relative to weather and the cancellation of class.

**Learning Disability Accommodations:** Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for support of learning disabilities and/or ADHD should contact Mrs. Laurie Roth, Director of Learning Services, 1307 Main Street (extension 1510). Students who wish to request accommodations for support of other disabilities should contact Dr. Ron Kline, Director of the Counseling Center, 1307 Main Street (extension 1510). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the appropriate disability support provider on campus.

**Academic Honesty:** Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. Plagiarism is the use of someone's work and the misrepresentation of the work as your own. Examples of plagiarism is failure to properly cite an author's work; using the author's words/thoughts as one's own; purchasing a paper from a professional service; using illustrations without citation etc. If uncertain about what constitutes plagiarism, it is the student's responsibility to seek clarification from the professor, librarian, or the Writing Center. Because of the no tolerance policy, ignorance of the policy is not acceptable. If there are grounds for suspicion of plagiarism, the assignment will be forwarded to the Dean for Academic Affairs. Please review Moravian College's policy on academic honesty found in the Student Handbook.

| DATE                             | TOPIC   | READINGS*   |
|----------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Week #1</b><br>8/26           | Course Overview   |   |
| 8/28                             | Theory, Theorists, Ethics<br>Nature vs Nurture<br>1. Psychoanalytical<br>2. Psychosocial<br>3. Cognitive<br>4. Moral<br>Research Strategies | Read: Berk Chapters 1 & 2<br>for in class discussion. Be prepared<br>to discuss informed consent (p. 39).<br><br>Read: Burkhardt & Nathaniel: Chap12<br>Be prepared to discuss questions<br>posed in the readings. (Reeves) |
| <b>Week #2</b><br>9/2            | Reproductive Choices  |   |
| 9/4                              | Biological/Environmental<br>Foundations   | Complete Internet search on IVF;<br>Sperm and Ova Donation/Purchase;<br>Surrogacy; Selective Reduction<br>Be prepared to discuss.   |
| <b>Week #3</b><br>9/9            | Prenatal Development  | Read: Berk Chapter 3<br>Video: <i>Miracle of Life</i><br>Complete: Prenatal History   |
| 9/11                             |   |   |
| <b>Week #4</b><br>9/16 9/18      | Prenatal Development<br>The Birthing Experience   | Read: Berk Chapter 3  |
| <b>Week #5</b><br>9/23 9/25      | The Birthing Experience   | End of Material for Exam 1  |
| <b>Week #6</b><br>9/30           | Examination #1 (Chapters 1-3)   | Take examination #1   |
| 10/2                             | Newborn/ Infant   | Read: Berk Chapter 4  |
| <b>Week #7</b><br>10/7           | Fall Break ☺  |   |
| 10/9                             | Infant/Toddler<br>Infant/Toddler  | Read: Berk Chapter 5, 6<br><br>Infant / Toddler Field Obs.<br>Students to present   |
| <b>Week #8</b><br>10/14<br>10/16 | Preschooler   | Read: Berk Chapter 7<br>Preschool Field Study<br>Students to present  |
| <b>Week #9</b><br>10/21          | School Age<br>"The Forgotten Years"   | Read: Berk Chapter 8, 9   |
| 10/23                            | Examination # 2<br>Chapters 4-8   | Take home exam due 10/28  |

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|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Week #10</b><br>10/28            | Adolescence                      | Read: Berk Chapter s 11, 12  |
| 10/30                               | Adolescence                      | School Age/Adolescents<br>Field Study: Students to present                         |
| <b>Week #11</b><br>Nov 4<br>Nov 6   | Young Adulthood                  | Read: Berk Chapters 13, 14<br>Young Adulthood:<br>Field Study: Students to present |
| <b>Week #12</b><br>Nov 11<br>Nov 13 | Middle Adulthood                 | Read: Berk Chapters 15, 16   |
| <b>Week #13</b><br>Nov 18<br>Nov 20 | Late Adulthood                   | Read: Berk Chapter 17<br>Movie: <i>The Notebook</i>                                |
| <b>Week #14</b><br>Nov 25           | Late Adulthood                   | Remaining student groups to present  |
| Nov 27                              | Happy Thanksgiving!              |  |
| <b>Week #15</b><br>Dec 2            | Late Adulthood                   | Late Adulthood<br>Field Study: Students to Present                                 |
| Dec 4                               | Examination #3<br>Chapters 11-17 |  |
| <b>Week #16</b><br>Dec 9            | Course Wrap Up                   | Submit Movie Critique  |