

Shepherd University, Department of Psychology
Lifespan Developmental Psychology
PSYC 340, Section 01
Course Syllabus
Spring, 2011
Tuesdays, 5:00 PM – 7:40 PM, 303 White Hall

Education is a kind of continuing dialogue, and a dialogue assumes, in the nature of the case, different points of view. (Robert Hutchins, 1899 – 1977)

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Office Hours: By appointment only

Course Description: This course consists of an introduction to the scientific study of human development over the lifespan.

Prerequisite Course: PSYC 101, Introduction to Psychology

Course Materials: *Text (required)* – Feldman, R. (2009). *Discovering the Life Span*. Pearson Education: Upper Saddle River, NJ.

Additional online materials and content will be available via:
Shepherd University Sakai portal access - <https://courses.shepherd.edu/xsl-portal> 201040-PSYC-340:01

Related Resources: (writing style guide for the social sciences)

American Psychological Association (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association*. (6th Ed.). Washington, DC: Author. (Purchase is recommended if you are planning to continue with graduate school in the social sciences).

Support Resources: Students are strongly encouraged to utilize available resources of the university to meet their academic goals. This includes scheduling individual appointments with the instructor if you are having difficulty with course materials or content. Use the library for research (both online and print resources), further reading, and assistance with research strategies.

The *Academic Support Center* (Mondays through Fridays 8:00 am - 4:30 pm, Scarborough Library, First Floor; www.shepherd.edu/ascweb; 304 876-5221) provides assistance in developing studying skills, free tutoring, and writing support as well as other individualized services. If you have questions ask your instructor, academic advisor, or fellow students. Your Student Handbook is also a valuable resource.

Course Goals/Objectives: Students successfully participating in this course will:

- 1) Demonstrate a basic understanding of issues in the scientific study of human development across the lifespan.
- 2) Relate course materials to a personal perspective on experiences in human development.

- 3) Demonstrate a basic understanding of the interaction of biological, psychological and social aspects of human development.
- 4) Demonstrate skills in communicating using oral and written materials to discuss topics related to human development.
- 5) Demonstrate skills in identifying and critiquing research materials related to human development.
- 6) Develop critical thinking skills.

Learning Activities and Expectations:

This class will consist of several types of learning experiences including didactic lecture presentations, written activities, cooperative learning activities, student presentations, and other active learning processes. Students should expect to devote at least 3 hours per week outside of class to reading and other outside coursework.

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the Shepherd University Academic Integrity Procedures found in the current edition of the **Shepherd University Student Handbook**. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work. Penalty for violation of this can be extended to include failure of the course and University disciplinary action.

You are encouraged to study and to discuss information and concepts covered in class with other students. You can give "consulting" help to or receive "consulting" help from such students. Students may share notes but may not take credit for writing those notes when they have not done so.

During examinations, you must do your own work.

Shepherd Late Work and Late Exams Policy:

Late work is not accepted unless the student can provide documentation of an emergency preventing them from submitting work on time. The instructor reserves the right to deny the request. If you are involved in approved University activities that require you to miss class you **MUST** inform the instructor of planned absences.

Since exams for this course will be completed online, students are provided with some flexibility in completing those exams. Specific timelines for completing these exams is noted under **Evaluation Activities**.

Accommodations for students with disabilities

The instructor will be available by appointment only to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that may be required for student with disabilities. Requests for academic accommodations are to be made during the first three (3) weeks of the semester, except for unusual circumstances, so arrangements can be made. Students are encouraged to register with Disability Support Services to verify their eligibility for appropriate accommodations. More information can be found at: http://www.shepherd.edu/mcssweb/mcss/D_index.shtm and is included in your handbook.

Evaluation Activities:

Students will be evaluated in a number of ways including but not limited to direct observation, participation in class activities, completion of examinations on course content, and written materials. All students are expected to comply with university requirements related to academic integrity and honesty (see your Student Handbook for details).

Quizzes/Exams: (50% of grade). Class time will NOT be used to complete exams. Except for the final two chapters, each chapter will have an online quiz available at the Sakai Course Website (see Course Materials noted above). Students are expected to complete each quiz following the class covering material for that chapter. Quizzes may also include questions related to the content of student presentations. Quizzes are to be completed following the assigned date for that chapter (see Class Schedule below) by 12 midnight on the Friday immediately following the Tuesday class meeting. Quizzes completed after that time will be accepted but will be penalized with a deduction of 10%. There will be a total of eight (8) quizzes during the semester. There will be approximately 40 multiple choice questions for each quiz along with at least one short answer/essay type question. These quizzes will account for 40% of the course grade. A final exam will be provided during final exams week (date and time to be announced).

The final exam will be comprehensive and account for 10% of the course grade. If the class combined course average for all completed quizzes is **84%** or greater (based on quizzes completed through 4/12/2011), the final exam may be waived and each student's quiz average will be used to calculate the final exam grade.

Attendance/Participation: (25% of grade). In order to participate in class activities students are expected to attend all scheduled class meetings. Participation is more than attending class. Participation includes but is not limited to: responding to comments/questions in the classroom, engaging in small group activities, seeking additional information on class topics from available resources, and/or asking for clarification of information provided in course materials. If you must miss class, it is your responsibility to inform the instructor as soon as possible. Reasonable absences may be excused at the instructor's discretion. In the event of closure of the university due to inclement weather, the course content will be adjusted accordingly.

Written Assignments and Presentations: (25% of course grade). There will be three (3) research article critiques (15%) for this class. There will be one in class presentation on a topic of your choice related to social services and human development (10%).

Research Article Critiques (15%) – students will write three (3) 1-2 page research article critiques on topics related to human development. The first research article will be provided by the instructor and subsequent articles will be the students' choice. These may be closely related articles or on different aspects of human development. The papers MUST be written following the APA, Publications Manual Style Guide (6th Edition) for citation of the source article and other references as appropriate. The critique will be based on guidelines provided in class and online. Many online resources are not peer reviewed so use these cautiously and after reviewing the content.

Timeline for Research Article Critiques:

- 2/8**– First Research Critique due (5%)
- 3/8** – Second Research Critique due (5%)
- 4/5** – Third Research Article Critique due (5%)

Presentations (10%) – Each student will be expected to provide a 5-10 minute oral presentation (schedule of presentations TBD) on a topic related to social services or public policy and human development (e.g., child care, education, health needs of special populations, public policy, etc.). Students should identify an agency, social service provider, or public policy issue that focuses on a specific developmental need/issue. More detailed information on the presentations will be provided in class and online.

Grade Calculations/Scale:

Each student's grades will be determined using the following percentages to calculate the overall percentage.

Quizzes (5% each)	=	40%
Final Exam	=	10%
Attendance/Participation	=	25%
Presentation Assignment	=	10%
<u>Research Critiques</u>	=	<u>15%</u>
Total percentage	=	100%

The University grading scale will be used in posting of the final grades for this course.

A	Superior	90-100%
B	Good	80-89%
C	Average	70-79%
D	Below Average, lowest passing grade	60-69%
F	Failure	59% or less
I	Incomplete, must be completed by date registered on incomplete form	
I/F	Failure to complete an incomplete course satisfactorily, or by stated deadline	
IF	Failure due to irregular withdrawal	
W	Withdraw without grade point penalty	
P	Pass	60% or above
AU	Audit	
CR	Credit only awarded	

Incomplete Grades

A grade of incomplete may be given to a student who has satisfactorily completed most of the requirements for a course, but because of illness or other extenuating circumstances, has not completed all of the requirements. All incomplete grades must be accompanied by a form provided by the Office of the Registrar and completed by the instructor and, if possible, signed by the student (see Student Handbook and University Catalog for further details/procedures).

What is important is to keep learning, to enjoy challenge, and to tolerate ambiguity. In the end there are no certain answers. (Martina Horner, Radcliffe College)

Passive acceptance of the teacher's wisdom is easy to most boys and girls. It involves no effort of independent thought, and seems rational because the teacher knows more than his pupils; it is moreover the way to win the favour of the teacher unless he is a very exceptional man. Yet the habit of passive acceptance is a disastrous one in later life. It causes man to seek and to accept a leader, and to accept as a leader whoever is established in that position. (Bertrand Russell, 1872-1970)

Class Schedule/Assignments/Readings*

Date	Topic	Assignments Readings
1/11	Course Introduction and Prenatal Development	Ch. 1
1/18	Prenatal Development (continued): Beginnings, The Start of Life, and Birth and the Newborn Infant	Ch. 1
1/24	Infancy: Physical and Cognitive Development	Ch. 2
2/1	Infancy: Social and Personality Development	
2/8	Preschool Years: Physical and Cognitive Development <i>First Research Article Critique due</i>	Ch. 3
2/15	Preschool Years: Social and Personality Development	Ch. 3
2/22	Middle Childhood: Physical Development	Ch. 4
3/1	Middle Childhood: Cognitive, Social and Personality Development	Ch. 4
3/8	Adolescence: Physical & Cognitive Development <i>Research Article Critique due</i>	Ch. 5
3/15	Spring Break – No Classes	
3/22	Adolescence: Social & Personality Development & Begin: Early Adulthood Development	Ch. 5 & 6
3/29	No Class Session	
4/5	Early Adulthood: Physical, Cognitive, Social & Personality Development	Ch. 6
4/12	Middle Adulthood: Physical, Cognitive, Social, & Personality Development <i>Research Article Critique due</i>	Ch. 7
4/19	Late Adulthood: Physical and Cognitive Development; Social & Personality Development	Ch. 8
4/26	Death and Dying – Class Wrap-up	Ch. 9
5/2 - 5/6	Finals Week, Final Exam – Date/Time TBA	

* Subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

Other Important Dates: (check the Shepherd University Academic Calendar for other dates for the Spring Semester).

- Last day for drop/add &/or late registration – January 14, 2011
- Last day to change credit/pass-fail status – January 24, 2011
- Last day to change credit/audit status – January 31, 2011
- Mid-term grades due –March 7, 2011
- Last Day to Withdraw from a Full Semester Class – April 8, 2011
- Spring Recess April 21 & 22 (if no snow days used)
- Final grades due –May 9, 2011