

SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY
LIFESPAN DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

Course Syllabus, Psyc 340, Section 01

Fall 2008

Tuesday/Thursday 3:15 – 4:30 PM, 304 White Hall

Instructor: Debra L. Laspina, MS

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Office Hours: By appointment only

Course Description: This course introduces the participants to the scientific study of human growth and development over the lifespan.

Prerequisite Course: PSYC 203, Introduction to Psychology

Course Materials: Text (required) – Santrock, J. (2008). *Essentials of lifespan development*. McGraw Hill.

Related Resources: American Psychological Association (2001). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association*. (5th Ed.).

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 conducting research (both online and print resources), pursuing further reading, and seeking assistance with research strategies. The Academic Support Center (Monday through Friday 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM, 114 Knutti Hall) provides assistance in developing study skills, 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 human developmental experiences.
- 3) demonstrate a basic understanding of the interaction of biological, psychological, and social aspects of human development throughout the lifespan.
- 4) develop skills in communicating using oral and written materials to discuss topics related to human developmental patterns, socialization, and aging.

- 5) develop skills in identifying and developing a research topic.
- 6) develop critical thinking skills and a tolerance for differing perspectives.

Learning Activities and Expectations:

This course presents an overview of human growth and development from prenatal development to old age. Facts, principles, processes, and research will be explored in the course of study. Physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development for all age groups will be presented. Students in this course will experience a variety of learning experiences, including, but not limited to, presentations by lecture, cooperative learning activities, written exercises, and other active learning projects. Students should expect to devote a minimum of three hours per week outside of class to reading and completing assignments.

The chapters listed in the weekly attached outline are to be thoroughly read during the week of the classroom presentation on that topic. In addition, good note taking is essential for successful performance in the class. If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to obtain notes from another student. Please consult the outline to prepare for exams, projects, and written assignments. Detailed instructions will be distributed prior to due dates.

Each student in this class is expected to abide by the Shepherd University Academic Integrity Procedures found in the Shepherd University Handbook. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work. Penalty for plagiarism will include failure of this course as well as University disciplinary action.

Shepherd Late Work and Late Exams Policy:

Late work is not accepted unless the student provides 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 will necessitate an absence, you must inform the instructor prior to the absence.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

The instructor will be available by appointment only to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that may be required for students with disabilities. Requests for academic accommodations are to be made within the first three weeks of the semester, and students are encouraged to register with Disability Support Services to verify their eligibility and receive appropriate accommodations. More information can be found at <http://www.shepherd.edu/mcssweb/disabilities/index.htm> or in your handbook.

Evaluation:

Evaluation in this course will be ongoing and will include participation in class discussions and activities, completion of exams, and written assignments. Opportunities for earning credit toward the final grade will be varied and numerous, appealing to multiple intelligence types and learning modalities.

Student participation will be expected during classroom discussions and small group discussions as an integral component of this class. The following guidelines must be applied to all class discussions in order to create a secure atmosphere for respect and open discussion.

- 1) No degradation of other people or groups will be permitted.
- 2) Discussion must relate to the classroom topic.
- 3) We must remember we do not all share the same perspectives.
- 4) We must never demean or devalue others for their contributions to the discussion.
- 5) We are allowed to disagree with each other.
- 6) Personal experiences shared within this class are not to be shared with others outside of this class.

Exams (35% of the grade): This course requires four short-answer, non-comprehensive essay exams which will be completed outside of the classroom. The final of the four exams will be administered during the week of final exams (date and time to be announced).

Attendance/Participation (25% of the grade): In order to participate in class activities, students are expected to attend all scheduled class meetings. Participation is an integral part of success in this course and includes responding to comments/questions in the classroom, engaging in small group activities, seeking additional information on class topics from available resources, and asking for clarification of information provided in course materials. It is important to remember that no question is too trivial for consideration; in fact, the worst question is the one that is never asked.

Written Assignments (25% of the grade): This course will include a research paper (15% of the grade) to be completed outside of class and two short writing prompts (10% of the grade) to be administered during scheduled class time. Students will write a five to eight page research paper on a topic related to human development. A list of suggestions will be provided. The paper must be written in APA style and must derive from a minimum of three scholarly sources (not including the textbook). Scholarly resources are materials that are published using a peer review process, so review them critically and choose them carefully. Information on reviewing research materials will be provided in class, as well as a timeline for completing the individual components of the paper. The information in this paper must be in your own words or properly cited. Plagiarism is stealing or passing off, as one's own the ideas or words of another, whether or not copyrighted. The

instructor, according to the degree of dishonesty the instructor judges is involved, will penalize plagiarism.

You are encouraged to study together and to discuss information and concepts covered in class with other students. You may consult with one another for the purposes of preparing assignments and studying for exams; however, assignments and exams intended for individual assessment must be completed on one's own.

Projects (15% of the grade): Each student will complete one individual project and one group project for presentation. The individual project will be completed outside of class, and the group project will consist of a combination of in-class and out-of-class work. All projects will be presented to the class.

Final Grades will be determined using the University grading scale:

90 – 100 %	A
80 – 89%	B
70 – 79%	C
60 – 69%	D
00 – 59%	F

I – Incomplete

I/F – Failure to complete course satisfactorily

IF – Failure due to irregular withdrawal

W – Withdrawal without grade point penalty

P – Pass

AU – Audit

CR – Credit only awarded

Incomplete Grades: A student who has satisfactorily completed most of the course requirements but who has not completed all of the requirements because of illness or other extenuating circumstances may receive a grade of “Incomplete”. 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).

Other Important Dates:

Last day for drop/add and/or late registration	August 22, 2008
Last day to change credit/pass-fail status	August 29, 2008
Last day to change credit/audit status	September 5, 2008
Mid-term grades due	October 13, 1008
Last day to withdraw from a full-semester class	November 7, 2008
Final grades due	December 15, 2008

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS AND READINGS SCHEDULE

<u>Week of</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment/Readings</u>
8/18 8/25	Introduction to Lifespan Development	Writing 1 Chapter 1
9/1	Biological Beginnings	Chapter 2
9/8 9/15	Physical, Cognitive, and Socioemotional Development in Infancy	Paper Topic Chapters 3, 4
9/22	Physical, Cognitive, and Socioemotional Development in Early Childhood	Exam 1 (CH 1-4) Chapters 5, 6
9/29 10/6	Physical, Cognitive, and Socioemotional Development in Middle and Late Childhood	Project 1 (Group) Chapters 7, 8
10/13 10/20	Physical, Cognitive, and Socioemotional Development in Adolescence	Exam 2 (CH 5-8) Chapters 9, 10
10/27 11/3	Physical, Cognitive, and Socioemotional Development in Early Adulthood	Writing 2 Chapters 11, 12
11/10	Physical, Cognitive, and Socioemotional Development in Middle Adulthood	Exam 3 (CH 9-12) Chapters 13, 14
11/17	Physical, Cognitive, and Socioemotional Development in Late Adulthood	Project 2 (Individual) Chapters 15, 16
11/24	THANKSGIVING RECESS	
12/1	Death and Grieving	Research Paper Chapter 17
12/8	Final Exam (CH 13-17) – Date and Time TBA	