

Child Psychology 313-002, Fall 2006

Class: MWF 12:30-1:20 a.m., Robinson B124
Instructor: Dhvani Patel
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E-mail: dpatel7@gmu.edu
Website: <http://adp.gmu.edu/members/dpatel7/teaching.htm>

Office Hours: Thursdays, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Or by appointment
Office: 1029 David Kind Hall (Enter through Room 1021)

Required Text: Berger, K. S. (2006). *The Developing Person through the Childhood*, (4th ed.). New York: Worth Publishers.

Course Objective: This course will cover the major topics from the field of child psychology from a scientific theory and research perspective. The course will focus on development from conception through childhood in the following domains, biosocial, cognitive, and psychosocial. Additionally, the class will examine factors that influence child development such as culture, family, school, environment, and peers.

Course Format: The course employs a combination of lecture, video clips, papers, and discussion. In order to prepare, students should read the assigned readings prior to attending class.

Technology: Students will be expected to obtain course information from the course website: <http://adp.gmu.edu/members/dpatel7/teaching.htm>. Additionally, students will be expected to use their GMU email account, and should check this account frequently. Correspondence with students outside of class will be via e-mail.

Exams: There will be 4 non-cumulative exams, one of which will be taken on the final exam time/day. Exams will consist of multiple choice and short answer. There will be **NO** make-up exams, in order to account for sickness and other personal matters, **students will be allowed to drop ONE of the first 3 exams; the 4th exam is MANDATORY**. Exams will be worth 50 points each.

Research Paper: Students will write a **5-8 page** paper (double-spaced, 12pt font) on a topic of their choice, relating to child development/psychology. Students will submit a topic for their paper by **Sept. 13th** for approval; points will be taken off for late submissions. Students will be informed of their due dates once topic submissions have been reviewed.

- Use *SSCI*, *PsycINFO*, and the *Library* to search for articles on your topic.
- Pick articles from reputable, peer-reviewed journals. Check with me if you are unsure.
- In the research paper, be sure to include the following sections: (1) *Introduction*- a brief description of the topic you are addressing in the paper, (2) *Goal of paper*- what aspect of the topic are you interested in addressing and why is this topic important, (3) *Previous Literature*- what research has been done in the past, and what are the general findings, (4) *Conclusions*- what is the take-home message, and overall conclusion. (5) *References* - cite your sources.
- Examples of topics: These are general directions, I expect students to come up with their own topic.
 - Complications of various prenatal teratogens.
 - The affects of various disciplinary actions on young children.
 - Language learning in Autistic children.
 - Day care's consequences on cognitive development.

Paper Presentations: Students will present their paper in an 8-10 minute power point presentation, including a brief summary of the topic, main research findings, and own conclusions/thoughts.

Honor Code: Students are expected to comply with the **George Mason University Honor Code**. Students should refer to the University Catalog for a complete explanation of Honor Code regulations.

Additional Information: If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office

Grading Policy:

Assignment	Points
Exams (50 points each)	150
Paper	35
Presentation	15
TOTAL Possible	200

A	>185
A-	179-184
B+	173-178
B	165-172
B-	159-164
C+	153-158
C	145-152
C-	139-144
D	120-138
F	<119

Last day to add: September 12, 2006

Last day to drop: September 29, 2006

A **tentative course schedule** is provided below.

***Important Note:** *Students are responsible for all announcements and any syllabus modifications made in class each week whether present or not.*

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT
8/28	Course overview	-----
8/30	Introduction	Ch. 1
9/1	Introduction (cont.)	Ch. 1
9/4	Labor Day- No Class	-----
9/6	Introduction (cont.)	Ch. 1
9/8	Theories of Development	Ch. 2
9/11	Theories of Development	Ch. 2
9/13	Theories of Development	Ch. 2 & Paper topic due!
9/15	Heredity and Environment	Ch. 3
9/18	Heredity and Environment	Ch. 3
9/20	EXAM I	-----

9/22	Prenatal Development and Birth	Ch. 4
9/25	Prenatal Development and Birth	Ch. 4
9/27	First two years: Biosocial development	Ch. 5
9/29	First two years: Biosocial development	Ch. 5
10/2	First two years: Cognitive development	Ch. 5 & Presentations begin
10/4	First two years: Cognitive development	Ch. 6
10/6	First two years: Cognitive development	Ch. 6
10/9	NO CLASS- Columbus Day (class meets Tuesday)	-----
10/10	First two years: Cognitive development	Ch. 6
10/11	First two years: Psychosocial development	Ch. 7
10/13	First two years: Psychosocial development	Ch. 7
10/16	First two years: Psychosocial development	Ch. 7
10/18	EXAM II	
10/20	NO CLASS- Instructor out of town	-----
10/23	Play years: Biosocial development	Ch. 8
10/25	Play years: Biosocial development	Ch. 8
10/27	Play years: Biosocial development	Ch. 8
10/30	Play years: Cognitive development	Ch. 9
11/1	Play years: Cognitive development	Ch. 9
11/3	Play years: Cognitive development	Ch. 9
11/6	Play years: Psychosocial development	Ch. 10
11/8	Play years: Psychosocial development	Ch. 10
11/10	Play years: Psychosocial development	Ch. 10
11/13	EXAM III	-----
11/15	School years: Biosocial development	Ch. 11
11/17	School years: Biosocial development	Ch. 11
11/20	School years: Biosocial development	Ch. 11
11/22-11/26	Thanksgiving Break	-----
11/27	School years: Cognitive development	Ch. 12
11/29	School years: Cognitive development	Ch. 12
12/1	School years: Cognitive development	Ch. 12
12/4	School years: Psychosocial development	Ch. 13
12/6	School years: Psychosocial development	Ch. 13
12/8	School years: Psychosocial development	Ch. 13
12/18	Exam IV 10:30 a.m. – 1:15 a.m.	-----