



**SYLLABUS: PSYC 211 – 002  
DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY  
Fall – 2006 (August 28 – December 13)**

**Instructor:** Camelia Mircea

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**Office Phone Number:** (703) 993-1349

**Office Hours:** Monday 2:00–4:00 p.m.

**Mailbox:** Graduate Student Mailboxes, David King Hall 2nd Floor

**Course Description:** This course focuses on the scientific study of processes of change and stability throughout the human life span.

**Time:** Wednesday 7:20 p.m.-10:00 p.m.

**Location:** David King Hall, Room 1006

**Required text:**

Kail, R. V. & Cavanaugh, J. C. (4<sup>th</sup> Ed) (2006). *Human Development: A Lifespan View*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning. ISBN 0-495-09304-1

**Course Objectives:**

At the end of this course, students should be able to describe the theories of developmental psychology, identify the domains of development (physical, cognitive, and social-emotional), summarize aspects of each developmental stage, and recognize the developmental changes that take place across the entire life-span.

**Course Design:**

Lecture material will have a Power Point format and will be a mixture of information gathered from your textbook and additional sources. There will be various in-class activities, from being involved in small group discussions to watching videos that target specific concepts of developmental psychology. All these activities are designed to encourage active learning and add variety to our class time.

**Course Requirements:**


◀Students are required to attend every class and are accountable for missing important information relevant to their knowledge and their performance on exams. It is strongly suggested that you be on time.

◀Students are also responsible for reading in advance the assigned chapters in order to have at list a gist of what is going to be presented in class.

◀Students must check their e-mails regularly. All electronic communication between you and your instructor must be sent over your GMU account. The instructor will not use your commercial e-mail address to communicate your grade or other important aspects related to this class.

## Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Exams

WEEK	DATE	TOPICS	READINGS and EXAMS
1	08/30	Course overview The Study of Human Development	R: Chapter One
2	09/06	Biological Foundations Tools for Exploring the World	R: Chapter Two & Chapter Three
3	09/13	The Emergence of Thought and Language	R: Chapter Four
4	09/20	Entering the Social World	R: Chapter Five
5	09/27	Exam I Off to School	E: Chapters 1,2,3,4,5 R: Chapter Six
6	10/04	Expanding Social Horizons	R: Chapter Seven
7	10/11	Rites of Passage	R: Chapter Eight
8	10/18	Moving Into the Adult Social World	R: Chapter Nine
9	10/25	Exam II Movie	E: Chapters 6,7,8,9

10	11/01	<b>Becoming an Adult</b>	<b>R: Chapter Ten</b>
11	11/08	<b>Being With Others</b>  <b>Work and Leisure</b>	<b>R: Chapter Eleven &amp; Chapter Twelve</b>  <b># 1 Movie essay due!</b>
12	11/15	<b>Making It in Midlife</b>  <b>The Personal Context of Later Life</b>	<b>R: Chapter Thirteen &amp; Chapter Fourteen</b>
13		<b>THANKSGIVING</b>	<b>THANKSGIVING</b>
14	11/29	<b>Exam III</b>  <b>Social Aspects of Later Life</b>	<b>E: Chapters 10,11,12,13,14</b>  <b>R: Chapter Fifteen</b>
15	12/06	<b>The Final Passage</b>  <b>Movie</b>	<b>R: Chapter Sixteen</b>
	12/13	<b>Final Exam (7:30 p.m. - 10:15 p.m.)</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>  <b># 2 Movie essay due!</b>

**Exams:**

It is imperative not to be late for exams. **As soon as the first student turns in his/her exam, no other students will be allowed to come in class and take the test.** There will be a total of four multiple-choice exams, from which **three are mandatory**. The final exam is cumulative. Students may take all four exams, but their lowest grade will be dropped. There is no make-up of exams. Students are required to bring a **pencil** and a **green scantron** that can be purchased at the bookstore **before** the exam starts. More information regarding the exam's format will be provided in class.

**Grading Policy:**

Students' final grades will be based on the following percentage scale:

A+	97-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D	60-69
A	93-96	B	83-86	C	73-76	F	59 (≤)
A-	90-92	B-	80-82	C-	70-72		

**Extra Credits:**

For earning extra credits, students need to write an essay (worth 10 points) on **any one** of the two movies presented in class. This assignment will facilitate the development of critical thinking skills and allow students to apply the declarative knowledge acquired in class to real-life circumstances. This assignment is not a merely movie critique; it has to meet the following requirements:

- ◀ Write (only!) one concise paragraph that describes the purpose and the main points of the film;
- ◀ Apply the material learned in class/textbook. You have the chance to make an intelligent connection between aspects related to the movie and the general principles covered in the textbook or presented in class;
- ◀ Include at least two scientific references (excluding the textbook). You need to prove that you think scientifically and have a grasp of how to use the APA style in your writing;
- ◀ Respect this format: two to three pages (no less than two), double spaced, 1 inch margins, and a 12 point font;
- ◀ (optional) Integrate your personal experiences. This is a good opportunity for self-reflection and for capitalizing on your relevant firsthand experience.

The instructor will assign a pass-fail grade (you earned 10 points or 0 points) for this informal assignment. Therefore, only students who respect all the above mentioned criteria will gain the extra points. Further details will be provided in class.

**Honor Code Policy:**

Please bear in mind that what you learn now is what may define you in the future. Log on to <http://www.gmu.edu/departments/unilife/honorcode.html> and carefully read the Honor Code.

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:**

Student with disabilities, who need academic accommodations, have to contact the instructor and the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

**APA Style:**

For information on APA writing style and guidelines, please refer to the American Psychological Association's website at <http://www.apa.org>

**Important Dates:**

Last day to add – September 12<sup>th</sup>    Last day to drop - September 29<sup>th</sup>