

Child Psychology
Psyc 313-004, Spring 2006

Instructor: Sara Kalb
Office: 1024 DK
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Class location: Krug Hall 210
Class time: Mon. 7:20-10:00 pm.

Goals: The purpose of this course is to give you an overview of development from conception to late childhood, discuss issues in development, and expose you to professional literature in the field.

Required text: Siegler, R., DeLoache, J., Eisenberg, N. (2002). *How Children Develop*. 1st ed.

Class attendance: Attendance is important because information outside of the text will be presented. In addition, missed in-class assignments will not be made up without a valid excuse.

Additional readings: short readings will be assigned throughout the semester. Several of these articles will be used to generate thoughts for your reflection papers. In addition, you may be tested on any material presented in the articles. See WebCT at <http://webct41.gmu.edu> to download assigned readings.

In-class assignments: Five in-class assignments will be given at random for three points each. The assignments will be short questions designed to engage the class in the lecture topic.

Exams: Three 50-point exams will be given during the semester worth 50% of your grade. Exam questions may include short-answer, long-answer, and multiple choice. Concerns about grading on exams will be considered only if an exam grade appeal form has been completed. Make-up exams will only be given to students who turn in a make-up request form *two weeks* prior to the test, unless an emergency arises. Please note that an emergency is not “I overslept”. Grade appeal and make-up forms may be found on WebCt or in my office. THERE IS NO EXAM DROP POLICY.

Assignments: Four short reflection papers, a literature search, and two article critiques will be required. Please see below for details.

Extra Credit: You may participate in an on-line survey for 12 points extra credit or an alternative assignment. The on-line survey occurs in 3 waves, and you will be awarded 4 points for each wave completed. Additional extra credit may be offered during the semester.

University Honor Code: *Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.* Details regarding the Honor policy may be found in the 2005-2006 University Course Catalog.

Technology: Students will be expected to access and use WebCT on a regular basis. Assignments, outlines, articles, the syllabus, and other forms will be posted on WebCT. Your WebCT ID should be your George Mason e-mail address minus the “@gmu.edu” part. Your password is the same as your e-mail.

Important: 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.

Deadlines: The last day to add this class is February 7th. The last day to drop this course is February 24h.

Late work: Late work will be accepted up to one week late, for 50% of the points. For each day that it is late, the equivalent of a letter grade will be deducted, up until the 50% point. If you cannot attend class the day an assignment is due, you may e-mail it with the condition that you turn in a paper copy no more than one week later. After that, the assignment will be counted as a late assignment.

Grading Policy:

	<u>Points</u>	<u>%</u>
5 in-class assignments	15	5
Literature search	20	~7
Article summaries	40	~13
Reflection papers	75	25
Exams	150	50
Total:	300 points	

A	269-300
B+	260-268
B	239-259
C+	230-238
C	209-229
D	179-208
F	178 and below

Schedule: The schedule is subject to change based on the amount of material we are able to cover and any inclement weather.

Date	Topic	Readings/assignments
Jan 23	Introduction, themes, issues, and child development research	Ch 1
Jan 30	Research, prenatal development	Ch 2, Reading #1
Feb 6	Prenatal development, birth and the newborn	Ch 3
Feb 13	The brain, growth, and infancy	Ch 5, Reading #2
Feb 20	Infancy, review	Ch 5 Reflection paper 1 due

Feb 27	Exam 1	
March 6	Cognitive development theories	Ch 4 Literature search due
March 13	No Class	
March 20	Language development, Social development theories	Ch 6, Ch 7 Article critique #1 due
March 27	Social development theories, Emotional development	Ch 9, Ch 10 Reflection paper 2 due
April 3	Temperament, Attachment, review	Ch 11
April 10	Exam 2	
April 17	Parenting and the family, childcare	Ch 12, Reading #3 and #4 Article critique #2 due
April 24	Friends and peers	Ch 13, Reflection paper 3 due
May 1	Moral development, prosocial behavior, and aggression	Ch 14, Reading #5 Reflection paper 4 due All extra credit due
May 15	Final Exam	

Assigned Articles

If you would like the full reference, please contact me.

1. *Brave new babies*. By Claudia Kalb
2. *Crib death: A biobehavioral phenomenon?* By Lewis P. Lipsitt
3. *Stress and the superdad*. By Michelle Orecklin
4. *Spanking and children: Evidence and Issues*. By Alan E. Kazdin and Corina Benjet
5. *A profile of bullying at school*. By Dan Olweus

Semester Assignments: points

1. Reflection papers (75 points): The topic and questions to be answered in your reflection papers will be discussed in class and subsequently posted on WebCT. You are expected to draw upon the material presented in lecture, material in the text, and your own experiences to provide a thoughtful discussion in your paper. Your reflection papers need the same attention as you would give a formal paper. The first three reflection papers should be 2-3 pages in length and will be worth 15 points each (45 total). The final reflection paper should be 4-5 pages, and will be worth 30 points.

2. Literature search (20 points): You will be required to perform a literature search using the computer database PsycInfo. Step-by-step instructions will be provided in class and on WebCT. Additional support may be found in the George Mason Libraries. You may select a topic of your choice as long as it is related to children and psychology. Sample topics: issues with pregnancy, issues with the family (e.g. divorce, blended families, parenting styles), aggression, television and violence, childhood obesity, suggestibility in children, second language learning, teaching and/or learning styles of children, advertising and children.

3. Article critiques (40 points total): You will select 2 articles from your literature search to read and critique. The key components of your review should include the *purpose* of the study, *research* conducted, *findings*, *implications* of the results, and any thoughts or comments. Each is worth 20 points.