



SYLLABUS: PSYC 211 – 001
DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY
Spring – 2007 (January 22 – May 16)

Instructor: Camelia Mircea

Email Address: cmircea@gmu.edu (the best way to reach me)

Office Location: Thompson Hall, Room 131

Office Phone Number: (703) 993-1349

Office Hours: Wednesday 1:00–2:00 p.m.

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

Time: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:30 a.m.-10:20 a.m.

Location: Robinson A, Room 111

Required text: Kail, R. V. & Cavanaugh, J. C. (4th Ed) (2006). *Human Development: A Lifespan View*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning.

Optional text: American Psychological Association. (2001). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (5th ed.)*. Washington, DC: Author.

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 least 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	01/22 01/24 01/26	Course overview The Study of Human Development	R: Chapter One
2	01/29 01/31 02/02	Biological Foundations Tools for Exploring the World	R: Chapter Two & Chapter Three
3	02/05 02/07 02/09	Tools for Exploring the World (cont.) The Emergence of Thought and Language	R: Chapter Four
4	02/12 02/14 02/16	The Emergence of Thought and Language (cont.) Entering the Social World	R: Chapter Five
5	02/19 02/21 02/23*	<u>Exam I</u> Off to School	E: Chapters 1,2,3,4,5 R: Chapter Six
6	02/26 02/28 03/02*	Expanding Social Horizons Rites of Passage	R: Chapter Seven & Chapter Eight
7	03/05 03/07 03/09*	Rites of Passage (cont.) Moving Into the Adult Social World	R: Chapter Nine
	03/12 03/14 03/16	SPRING BREAK	
8	03/19 03/21 03/23*	<u>Exam II</u> Becoming an Adult	E: Chapters 6,7,8,9 R: Chapter Ten
9	03/26 03/28 03/30*	Becoming an Adult (cont.) Being With Others	R: Chapter Eleven
10	04/02 04/04 04/06*	Work and Leisure Making It in Midlife	R: Chapter Twelve & Chapter Thirteen
11	04/09 04/11 04/13*	Making It in Midlife (cont.) <u>Exam III</u>	E: Chapters 10,11,12,13
12	04/16 04/18 04/20*	The Personal Context of Later Life <u>Extra credit assignment due!!!</u>	R: Chapter Fourteen

13	04/23 04/25 04/27*	Social Aspects of Later Life	R: Chapter Fifteen
14	04/30 05/02 05/04	The Final Passage <u>Exam IV</u>	R: Chapter Sixteen E: Chapters 14,15,16
		No exam on Finals Week !!!	

* Research paper due

** Please take into account that dates may change as the semester progresses!

Exams:

It is imperative not to be late for exams. **As soon as the first student turns in his/her exam, no other student will be allowed to take the test.** There will be a total of **four** multiple-choice exams, from which **three** are mandatory. The final exam is **not** 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:

3 exams	75 % (25 % each)
Research paper	20 %
Attendance and participation	5 %
Total:	100 %
Extra credit	5 %
Final possible score in %	105 %

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

A+	97-105	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		

Research Paper:

Students will have to write **a four to five page paper** on a topic of developmental psychology. 6 or 7 students (randomly selected by the instructor and notified during the 1st week) will turn in their research papers (a hard copy and an electronic copy) every Friday, beginning with the 5th week of classes (see the

Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Exams). The paper should:

- ◀ be typed (**12** point font - Times New Roman), double spaced, and have **1 inch margins**.
- ◀ have a cover sheet that includes your name, the title of your paper, your G#, course name and section number, and the date.
- ◀ reference **at least 5 valid sources**, using APA format.

A list with possible topics will be provided in class or via e-mail. Further details will be discussed in class.

Extra Credits:

For earning extra credits, students will have to write **a two to three page essay** (worth 5 %) on a movie selected from a list provided in class by the instructor. This movie critique has to meet the requirements already mentioned above (see Research Paper) plus the following:

- ◀ Write only half a page in which you describe the main points of the film (the narrative);
- ◀ Apply the material learned in class/textbook. You need to connect aspects related to the movie with general principles covered in the textbook or presented in class;
- ◀ Include **at least two** scientific references (**excluding** the textbook). Use the APA style!
- ◀ 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 for this assignment (students will earn 5 % or 0 %). Therefore, only students who satisfy **all** these requirements will earn the extra points.

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:

Students 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 DRC.

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:

Exam I	02/19
Exam II	03/19
Exam III	04/13
Exam IV	05/04

Research paper due	every Friday beginning with the 5 th week of classes
Extra credit assignment due	04/20

Last day to add classes	02/06
Last day to drop	02/23