

**PSYC 211-C01**  
**Developmental Psychology**  
**Summer 2006**  
**M-R 11:45 am - 1:50 pm, IN 223**

**Course Instructor:** Dhvani Patel  
**Contact Info:** (703)-993-4050 (office)  
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**Office Hours:** Wednesday 2:00-3:00 pm. or by appointment  
**Office:** 1029 David King Hall, (Enter through room 1021)

**Required Text:** Berger, K. S. (2005) *The Developing Person Through the Life Span*, (6th ed.). New York: Worth Publishers.  
*Hardcover ISBN: 0-7167-5706-0 or paperback ISBN: 0-7167-9159-5.*

**Course Objective:** This course covers the major areas of developmental psychology. The course emphasizes an understanding of the important methods, terms, theories, and findings in the field of developmental psychology. By the end of the semester, students should gain a basic understanding of how psychological theory contributes to our understanding of the many aspects of human development.

**Course Format:** The course employs a combination of lecture, video clips, and discussion. In order to prepare, you should read the assigned readings prior to attending class. Students will be expected to obtain course information from the website listed above. Additionally, grades will be updated frequently on the course website. Students should also check their GMU e-mail accounts, as correspondence will be sent via e-mail.

**Exams:** There will be 4 non-accumulative exams (including the final) dispersed throughout the session covering everything (text, lectures, videos, and articles). There will be **NO** make-up exams. In order to account for sickness and other personal matters, **each student's lowest exam grade will be dropped**. If a student has taken the first 3 exams during the semester and is satisfied with his/her grade, the student has the option of not taking the final exam. Exams will consist of multiple choice questions, and will be worth 50 points each, accounting for **150 points** of the student's final grades.

**\*Note:** Students who arrive 15 minutes after the start of an exam will not be permitted to take it—  
**PLEASE COME ON TIME!**

**Assignments:** There will be 6 assignments of which students will be required to do 5. Students will read the articles assigned for a given week, and write a minimum of a one-page double-spaced reflection paper **for each** article assigned for that week (please note that some weeks have two articles, to receive full credit you need to do reflections for each article for that week). Papers should include a well-thought-out critique, and any thoughts, comments and questions about the article. Assignments will be turned in at the beginning of class on the due date; late assignments and/or e-mailed assignments will **not** be accepted. Students should be prepared to discuss the article(s) in class on the due date. Each assignment will be worth 8 points, accounting for **40 points** of the students' final grade. Articles will be available on the course website.

**Extra Credit:** An optional extra credit assignment will be available worth **5 points** toward student's final grade. Details will be provided on the course website.

**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
5 reflection papers (8 points each)	40
Exams (50 points each)	150
<b>TOTAL Points</b>	<b>190</b>
Extra Credit	+5

<b>A</b>	≤176
<b>A-</b>	171-175
<b>B+</b>	165-170
<b>B</b>	157-164
<b>B-</b>	152-156
<b>C+</b>	146-151
<b>C</b>	138-145
<b>C-</b>	133-137
<b>D</b>	114-132
<b>F</b>	≥113

Last day to add: July 11, 2006

Last day to drop: July 14, 2006

### Assignments:

1. The Mystery of Fetal Life: Secrets of the womb. J. Pekkanen, *Current*, September, 2001.
2. Four Things you Need to Know About Raising Baby. J. Lipari. *Psychology Today*, July/Aug 2000.
3. *a.)* Stipek, D. (2002). At what age should children enter kindergarten? A question for policy makers and parents. *SRCD Social Policy Report*, 26(2).  
  
*b.)* With Boys and Girls in Mind, M. Gurian and K. Stevens, *Educational Leadership*, November 2004.
4. Jensen, P. S., Mrazek, D., Knapp, P. K., Steinberg, L., Pfeffer, C., Schowalter, J., & Shapiro, T. (1997). Evolution and revolution in child psychiatry: ADHD as a disorder of adaptation. *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, 36, 1672-1679.
5. *a.)* Should Congress be Giving More Financial Support to Abstinence-Only Sex Education? Yes: Abstinence is Working to Decrease Teen Pregnancy and is Building Character Among Our Nation's Youth, K. Tsubata, *Insight on the News*, November 2003.  
  
*b.)* Should Congress be Giving More Financial Support to Abstinence-Only Sex Education? No: Withholding Information About Contraception and Teaching Only Abstinence puts Sexually Active Teens at Risk, C. Richards, *Insight on the News*, November 2003.
6. The Battle for Your Brain, Ronald Bailey, *Reason*, February 2003.

A **tentative course schedule** is provided below; your instructor is at liberty to make changes as long as students are given fair notice.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignment for Date</b>
7/05	Course overview	
7/06	Introduction	<b>Ch. 1</b>
7/10	Theories of Development	<b>Ch. 2</b>
7/11	Prenatal and Birth	<b>Ch. 4 &amp; *Assignment 1 Due</b>
7/12	First two years: Biosocial & Cognitive	<b>Ch. 5, 6</b>
7/13	First two years: Psychosocial Guest lecture	<b>Ch. 7 &amp; *Assignment 2 Due (review for exam)</b>
7/17	<b>NO CLASS</b>	
7/18	<b>Exam I</b>	-----
7/19	Play years: Biosocial Play years: Cognitive	<b>Ch. 8, 9 &amp; *Assignment 3 Due (2 articles)</b>
7/20	Play years: Cognitive (cont.) Play years: Psychosocial	<b>Ch. 9, 10 (review for exam)</b>
7/24	<b>Exam II</b>	-----
7/25	School years: Biosocial School years: Cognitive	<b>Ch. 11, 12 &amp; *Assignment 4 Due</b>
7/26	School years: Cognitive (cont.) School years: Psychosocial	<b>Ch. 12, 13</b>
7/27	School years: Psychosocial (cont.)	<b>Ch. 13 (review for exam)</b>
7/31	<b>Exam III</b>	-----
8/01	Adolescence: Biosocial, Adolescence: Cognitive	<b>Ch. 14, 15 &amp; *Assignment 5 Due (2 articles)</b>
8/02	Early Adulthood: Cognitive Middle Adulthood: Cognitive	<b>Ch. 18, 21</b>
8/03	Middle Adulthood: Biosocial	<b>Ch. 20 &amp; *Assignment 6 and Extra Credit Due (review for exam)</b>
<b>8/04</b>	<b>Exam IV 1:30 - 4:15 p.m.</b>	<b>Good Luck!</b>