

## Child Psychology (PSYC 313)

**Course Instructor:** Megan Scott

**Contact Information** (email preferred): [mscottf@gmu.edu](mailto:mscottf@gmu.edu) Voicemail: (703) 993-4195

**Office Hours:** 1004 David King Hall; Wednesday 6-7pm

**Class:** Robinson Hall B, Room 120; Monday and Wednesday 7:20 – 10pm

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### Course Overview

This course will survey major topics in child development including the emotional, cognitive, social development. The course will examine the factors that influence development including genetics, culture, family, peers, and environment. The goal of the course is to help students understand the major theories and research in child psychology and their implications in the field. The course format promotes discussion and debate of the information presented in the class, current topics in the field, and student's experiences.

### Required Reading

**Text:** Siegler, R., DeLoache, J., & Eisenberg, N. (2003). How children develop. New York: Worth Publishers.

**Additional Readings:** Additional Readings will be assigned over the course of the class

### Course Requirements

#### **Exams (300 points total):**

There will three non-cumulative, in-class exams making up 50% of your total grade. Each exam is worth 100 points. Exams will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. The material covered in the readings and the lectures will be covered in the exams. There will be no makeup exams- no exceptions.

#### **Literature Review (150 points):**

**Choose a topic**—Your topic needs to be approved by this date. It is recommended that you choose a topic in the field that interests you.

**Research paper**—Each student will write one paper in which they explain or interpret a topic of interest within the field of child psychology. The literature review is worth 25% of your grade. This paper will be graded on the basis of how well you do the following: (1) research, summarize and synthesize the literature, (2) process and critique information to discuss its implications for the field of child psychology. You must have a minimum of 5 references. You can include scholarly journal articles, book chapters, and books, but do not include websites as references. The paper should be typed in 12-point font, double spaced and 1 inch margins. This paper should be between 6 and 7 pages excluding cover and reference pages. The paper should follow the APA guidelines.

#### **Reaction Papers (90 points):**

Throughout the course of the semester you will complete four reaction papers, which make up 15% of your grade. You will choose a reading from the required reading list, which includes the text and the additional readings, to discuss. The reaction paper will consist of two parts: 1) a summary of the reading 2) a discussion of your reactions to the reading (e.g. what do you think

about it, what ideas or questions does the reading generate, can the information in the reading be applied to real life situations). Use a different reading for each paper. The paper should be 2-3 pages, double-spaced in length.

**Participation (60 points):**

Class participation counts as 10% of your grade. Your class participation grade will be based on active participation in class discussions. To earn maximum credit in class participation, it is encouraged for students to attend lectures ready to discuss material covered in class.

**Grading Scale**

98-100= A+, 93-97=A, 90-92=A-, 87-89=B+, 83-86=B, 80-82=B-, 77-79=C+, 73-76=C, 70-72=C-, 67-69=D+, 63-66=D, <63=F

**Disabilities Resources**

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.

**Honor Code**

This course employs the GMU Honor Code. All work should be your own and should be cited properly using APA format. Any Honor Code violation will result in a zero for that assignment. If you have not reviewed the student honor code please refer to: <http://www.gmu.edu/student/drc/services.html>

**Schedule of Classes**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Lecture Topic</i>	<i>Chapter</i>
June 5	Syllabus and Course Overview Intro to Child Psychology	1
June 7	Prenatal Development/ Early Infancy and the Role of Biology and Behavior in Development	2&3
June 12	<b>Turn in Paper Topic</b> Theories of Cognitive Development	4
<b>June 14</b>	<b>* Last day to add &amp; drop classes *</b> <b>Reaction Paper #1 Due</b> Development in Infancy	5
June 19	<b>Last day to add &amp; drop classes *</b> <b>EXAM 1</b> (Chapters 1-5)	
June 21	Language, Symbol, and Conceptual Development	6 & 7

June 26	Intelligence and Academic Achievement	8
June 28	<b>Turn in Reaction Paper #2 Due</b> Theories of Social Development	9
July 3	JULY 4 <sup>th</sup> Weekend No Class	
July 5	Emotional Development	10
July 10	<b>EXAM 2 (6-10)</b> Attachment and Identity Development	11
July 12	<b>Reaction Paper # 3 Due</b> The Family Peer Relationships	12 & 13
July 17	<b>Paper Due</b> Moral Development	14
July 19	Gender Development	15
July 24	<b>Reaction Paper # 4 Due</b> Abnormal Child Psychology and Review	
July 26	<b>FINAL EXAM (11-15)</b>	

*\* The syllabus and assignments may be amended at any point in the semester\**