

COURSE SYLLABUS

YEAR COURSE OFFERED: 2019
SEMESTER COURSE OFFERED: Spring
DEPARTMENT: PSYC
COURSE NUMBER: 4314
NAME OF COURSE: Child Psychology
NAME OF INSTRUCTOR: Dr Nicholas Shaman

The information contained in this class syllabus is subject to change without notice. Students are expected to be aware of any additional course policies presented by the instructor during the course.

Learning Objectives

The objective of this class is to teach students the major theories, concepts, and research methods in developmental psychology. By the end of the semester, students will:

1. Understand the cognitive, social, emotional, and biological changes that occur during childhood.
2. Understand how research is conducted with infants and children.
3. Be able to identify the major theories of developmental psychology and apply them to the changes that occur during childhood.
4. Be able to apply knowledge of development to real world issues.
5. Be able to critically analyze and discuss current research in developmental psychology.

Major Assignments/Exams

Class Structure

Lecture

Lecture will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00 PM to 2:20 PM in Bayou Building, Room 1311. The purpose of lecture is to introduce and explore new material. Lecture attendance is *required*. Class time will consist of lecture, group activities, and class discussion. Participation is required for an active understanding of developmental psychology. Every day will cover new material. Class time is designed to be engaging and constructive. Do not be afraid to ask questions and challenge ideas.

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Exams

There will be four exams in this course. The exams will take place on February 14th, March 26th, April 16th, and May 9th. The purpose of the exams is to test students' knowledge of the material. The exams are *not* cumulative. Exams will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. Students will be provided with sample short answer questions in preparation of the exam. Make-up exams will only be given for emergency purposes and will require a doctor's note or other documentation (e.g., program from a funeral). Make-up exams must be arranged prior to the exam.

Quizzes

There will be 11 quizzes in this class. Quizzes will be taken on Blackboard. Quizzes will cover the readings for the lecture of the current week. Quizzes will be due on Thursdays by the start of lecture at 1:00 PM. Quizzes will be posted 5 day before. The purpose of the quizzes is to reinforce the material. Quizzes are open book and working with classmates is allowed. These quizzes will be easy and are meant for students to refresh the material in their minds. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Because the quizzes are meant to be easy and the lowest score will be dropped, no make-up quizzes will be allowed.

Writing Assignment

There will be one writing assignment in this course. The writing assignment will be due on Thursday, May 9th, at 11:59 PM. The purpose of the writing assignment is to examine the students' ability to synthesize an understanding of developmental psychology and an analysis of current research in the field. Details for the papers will be provided during the semester.

Readings

There will be readings required every week for this class. Every week, a chapter or two from the required textbook will be assigned. The textbook is primarily used for background information. Quiz material will come from the textbook. Class discussion is not possible unless all students are knowledgeable about the content of the textbook.

Attendance and Participation

Students are required to attend lecture every week. During lecture, students will engage in class activities. Students attendance and participation grades will be determined by their presence in class and engagement in class activities.

Extra Credit

An extra credit assignment will be provided to all students at the end of the semester. The extra credit assignment will be worth an additional 20 points on the final grade. Details of the extra

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credit assignment will be provided near the end of the semester. No other extra credit assignments will be provided.

Grading

The final grade students receive in the class will be based upon the following:

Grade Component	Percentage	Points
Exam 1	15%	150
Exam 2	15%	150
Exam 3	15%	150
Exam 4	15%	150
Quizzes	10%	100
Writing Assignment	20%	200
Attendance and Participation	10%	100
Total	100%	1000

The final letter grade will be determined from the average students receive using the formula above:

	A = 1000 to 930	A - = 929 to 900
B + = 899 to 870	B = 869 to 830	B - = 829 to 800
C + = 799 to 770	C = 769 to 730	C - = 729 to 700
D + = 699 to 670	D = 669 to 630	D - = 629 to 600
	F = Below 600	

Required Reading

Kail, R. (2015). *Children and Their Development* (7th ed.). Boston, MA: Pearson.

Recommended Reading

None

List of discussion/lecture topics

Class Calendar

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Class Dates	Topic	Readings	Assignment
1/22/2019	Introduction to Child Psychology		
1/24/2019	Concepts of Child Psychology	Chapter 1	Quiz #1
1/29/2019	Genetics and Prenatal Development	Chapter 2	
1/31/2019	Genetics and Prenatal Development	Chapter 3	Quiz #2
2/5/2019	Physical Growth	Chapter 4	
2/7/2019	No Class: Blackboard Assignment		Quiz #3
2/12/2019	Physical Growth		
2/14/2019	Exam 1		
2/19/2019	Perceptual and Motor Development	Chapter 5	
2/21/2019	No Class: Blackboard Assignment		Quiz #4
2/26/2019	Perceptual and Motor Development		
2/28/2019	Cognitive Development	Chapter 6	Quiz #5
3/5/2019	Cognitive Development		
3/7/2019	No Class: Blackboard Assignment		
3/12/2019	Spring Break		
3/14/2019	Spring Break		
3/19/2019	Cognitive Processes	Chapter 7	
3/21/2019	Intelligence	Chapter 8	Quiz #6
3/26/2019	Exam 2		
3/28/2019	Language and Communication	Chapter 9	Quiz #7
4/2/2019	Language and Communication		
4/4/2019	Emotional Development	Chapter 10	Quiz #8
4/9/2019	Emotional Development		
4/11/2019	Self and Social Understanding	Chapter 11	
4/16/2019	Exam 3		
4/18/2019	Social Behavior	Chapter 12	Quiz #9
4/23/2019	Gender Development	Chapter 13	
4/25/2019	Family and Peer Relationships	Chapter 14	Quiz #10
4/30/2019	Family and Peer Relationships		
5/2/2019	Family and Peer Relationships	Chapter 15	Quiz #11
5/9/2019	Exam 4: 1:00 PM - 3:50 PM		Writing Assignment