

PSYC 3310- DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

Spring 2009

Tuesday - Thursday 2.00 PM – 3.20 PM

Life Science 118

Instructor: Madeline Rex-Lear
Office: Life Sciences 423
Office hours: Tues and Thurs 3.30-4.30 pm
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1) Required Textbooks: Santrock, John W. (2007). A Topical Approach to Life-Span Development, 4th Edition. McGraw-Hill Higher Education.

2) Course Description: This course is designed to introduce many major themes that characterize today's developmental research. We will primarily focus on childhood and adolescence in class. However, in combination with the readings from Santrock, we will obtain a comprehensive view of the entire lifespan. I will coordinate lectures with readings, but there will be class material NOT presented in the book. This should pose no problem: the book is well written, and you will be exposed to more material this way.

3) Course Learning Goals and Objectives: Much of the lecture material will be based on findings obtained in experimental research undertaken in developmental psychology. We will focus more on theories and research than on applications in this course, but applications should be obvious to those who understand the underlying phenomena of the field.

Finally, I want you to enjoy the class material. I believe that the student should take an active role in the classroom. Instead of only lecturing, I want to interact with you through demonstrations and active discussions. This will only occur if you cooperate and participate.

4) SPECIFIC COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

(a) Attendance: It is your responsibility to attend class and not be late. I will take attendance 5 random times throughout the semester and will be worth a total of 5 points. This will be added to your final grade.

(b) Drop Policy: For Spring 2009, the Last Drop Date is **Friday, April 3rd**. Students are allowed to drop until 5:00 p.m. CST on that date. Undergraduate students who drop a course on or before the Last Drop Date will receive an automatic grade of "W" regardless of whether they have completed assignments or not. A "W" will be placed on the student record automatically by MyMav when the drop is entered.

5) Examinations. There will be **four (4)** equally weighted (25% each), multiple-choice exams (50 questions worth 2 points apiece = 100). Questions will be drawn from text, lectures, videos, etc. covered during the semester. You are expected to be in class on time during examination dates. I will **not** give exams to any late students after the first exam is turned in. If you come after this point to take the exam, it will be considered a "missed" exam. Students who have absences during exams authorized by the University must contact the instructor one week in advance of the excused absence and arrange with the instructor to take the examination prior to the absence. Failure to notify the instructor or to comply with these arrangements will void the excused absence. **THERE ARE NO MAKE-UP EXAMS.**

I will not go over examinations in class. Grades will be posted by your unique id code provided by UTA via WEBCT. If you do not want your grades posted for any reason, see me immediately. You can also make an appointment to see your exam at any time up to 1 week after the test. I will **NOT** e-mail anonymous codes or individual grades to students for security reasons.

6) Handouts I will make every effort to make course materials available before the class in which it will be discussed. You are responsible for downloading copies of the materials BEFORE class if you want them. If you do not own a computer, there are computers available for your use on campus (e.g., main library).

Students are also required to use their UTA MAVS e-mail account in this class. I will not send e-mails to alternate accounts. The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University email address as an official means of communication with students. Through the use of email, UT Arlington is able to provide students with relevant and timely information, designed to facilitate student success. All students are assigned an email account and information about activating and using it is available at www.uta.edu/email. New students (first semester at UTA) are able to activate their email account 24 hours after registering for courses. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active as long as a student is enrolled at UT Arlington. Students are responsible for checking their email regularly.

Extra Credit: There will be three ways to gain 4 extra-credit points (total). To gain these Extra Credit points you MUST be enrolled in SONA. Details are available on the psychology website at <http://www.uta.edu/psychology/> and scroll to the section that says **Participant pool information/Research requirements. Open the link to Upper-Level Psychology Course Research Option/Requirement and follow the instructions. There is also a link here for the paper summary option.**

You are responsible for completing the extra credit should you choose to do so. Deadlines are in the handout - be aware of them.

I will also have extra class participation opportunities throughout the course (TBA).

Point Distribution and Grading Policy

Exam 1	25%
Exam 2	25%
Exam 3	25%
Exam 4	25%

Total 100%
90-100% = A, 80-89% = B, 70-79% = C, 60-69% = D, <60 = F

You will not be graded on a curve. Any course work not completed by the last day of class will convert to a '0'. Please do not ask me to do otherwise.

Incompletes will only be given under extenuating circumstances and must be discussed with the professor BEFORE the last day of the semester. The grade of incomplete will be assigned only if the student has encountered circumstances beyond his or her control and the student's previous actions have not created these circumstances. The assignment of this incomplete grade will be made at the decision of the instructor after consideration of the facts as presented in a written request from the student. An incomplete will not be awarded merely to allow more time to complete course assignments or to avoid an undesirable grade. Please do not ask me to do otherwise.

Academic Dishonesty: It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. Any form of academic dishonesty will be reported. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

"Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or material that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts." (Regents' Rules and Regulations, Part One, Chapter VI, Section 3, Subsection 3.2, Subdivision 3.22)

Americans with Disabilities Act: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation, reference to Public Law 92-112 - The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new federal legislation entitled Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

I will provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate based on disability. The student, however, is responsible for informing me of a disability requiring special accommodation and providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels at the beginning of the semester.

Tentative Lecture/Topic Schedule:

Week	Topic	Assignment
January 20-22	Introduction to class: What is Developmental Psychology?	Chapter 1
January 27-29	Research Methods & Theories	Chapter 1
February 9-11	Biological Beginnings/ Hereditary Influences	Chapter 2
February 3-5	Physical Development and Biological Aging	Chapter 3
February 10	Catch-Up Day	(Topic)
February 12	Exam 1	
February 17	Health	Chapter 4
February 19-24	The Brain/Alzheimer's	Chapter 3
March 26 - 3	Motor Sensory, and Perceptual Development	Chapter 5
March 5 -10	Cognitive Developmental Approaches	Chapter 6
March 12	Exam 2	
March 17-19	SPRING BREAK – yippee!	
March 24-26	Information Processing/Memory	Chapter 7- 8
March 31	Language Development	Chapter 9
April 2	Language Development	Chapter 9
APRIL 3	FINAL DROP DAY	
April 7-9	Emotional Development	Chapter 10
April 14	Exam 3	
April 16	Attachment	Chapter 10
April 21-23	The Self, Identity, and Personality	Chapter 11
April 28-30	Gender and Sexuality	Chapter 12
May 5 -7	Death and Grieving	Chapter 17
May TBA	EXAM 4 (Non-Cumulative Final Examination)	time TBA

NOTE: Catch-up days are indeed lecture days and you are responsible for materials covered in class on those days. Finally, we will be having lectures, etc. during dead week (which are permissible under the final review week policy).