Required Text: Santrock’s *A Topical Approach to Lifespan Development, Sixth Edition, with McGraw-Hill CONNECT access*

Course Description: This course will introduce you to major theories and topics in the field of developmental psychology. We will emphasize the ways in which various socialization agents (e.g., parents, teachers, siblings, etc.), in connection with biological factors, contribute to successful development as we focus on normative physical, cognitive, social and emotional development in cultural context throughout the lifespan. As part of this course, you will have multiple opportunities to read, discuss, apply, analyze, synthesize and critically evaluate work in the field of developmental psychology.

Learning Outcomes: By the end of the course, the student should be able to:

1) Accurately describe the main points of the developmental theories we cover (including their similarities and differences) with reference to the different domains (physical, cognitive, social/emotional) of development covered in the textbook;

2) Use the information from your text as background knowledge and information to apply to real-world situations, critically evaluating claims that you might encounter out in the “real world” (outside of the classroom) about how people develop.

Assignments/Grades

Tests. Four tests worth 100 points each will be given throughout the semester. Each exam is 20 percent of your final grade. A comprehensive final exam will be given at the end of the semester. If you are satisfied with your grade after the fourth test and have completed all assignments, you may opt out of the final exam. However, if you are missing a test score or would like an opportunity to improve your exam average, you may take the final exam. Your final exam score will replace your missing grade, or your lowest test score. Taking the final exam can only help your grade, not hurt it. If you miss a test for any reason, you must take the final exam to replace the grade. There will be no make-up exams given.

Homework: You will have two weekly assignments posted online throughout the semester. These online assignments are intended to help you master the vast amount of material the course covers. When done before the due date, these assignments will prepare you for topics to be introduced in class; if you choose not to do them, you may feel lost in the class, and your final grade will be impacted.
In-class Work. In-class work/writings will be distributed randomly throughout the semester. This is a participation grade, so if you are in class and participating appropriately, you will receive credit. If you miss class on one of these days, you cannot make up the lost work. You are allowed to miss one in-class writing assignment without penalty; use this wisely! More than one missed in-class work will result in lost points, regardless of the reason for missing class.

Homework and in-class assignments will combine to form 20 percent of your final grade.

Classroom Policies

Classroom Etiquette. Please turn off your cell phones (or iPods, etc.), or turn them to silent before class begins, out of respect for your peers and me. Do not engage in any other behaviors, such as web surfing or engaging in side conversations that may distract other students. If I observe this behavior repeatedly, you will be asked to leave, which may result in loss of participation points. If you must take a phone call or text during class time, please keep them on vibrate and leave class quietly. Laptops are permitted but are to be used for class purposes only. Please respect your classmates and the extent to which all of us may become distracted by these devices.

Late Work. There will be no make-up or late work permitted for in-class assignments. If you are in class, you will receive credit; if you are not, you won’t. Missed exams will be made up during the final exam period at the end of the semester.

Attendance. Attendance is expected. If you miss a class, you will still be responsible for any notes, handouts, announcements, etc. that may have taken place during the missed class. The in-class assignments will count toward participation/attendance credit. Those will be given throughout the semester on random days. If you are here and participate fully, you will receive credit; if you miss class, you will not receive credit for that assignment. Please see me if you have any questions about your participation grade throughout the semester. If you are late to class or leave early and miss an in-class assignment, you will not be able to make it up.

Contacting me. Email is the best way to get in touch with me. If you need to meet with me outside of office hours, please contact me in advance and I will be happy to schedule another time to meet with you.

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities ACT (ADA) requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodations of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation please contact the Disability Services Office at (361) 825-5816 or visit the office in Driftwood 101. The recording of lectures or other class activities is prohibited without permission from the instructor, although exceptions will always be made for students with disabilities. Please see me if you believe you need to record audio in class.
Academic Advising

If you are majoring, or planning to major, in a field taught in the College of Liberal Arts and if you have not yet obtained a signed degree plan, you should see your Academic Advisor immediately. Degree plans are important and useful to successful progress toward graduation. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College's Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

Grade Appeal Process

As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.htm. For assistance or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty, which includes plagiarism, handing in materials used in other courses, the use of old exams from previous classes, or the use of any work that is not the student's will be dealt with according to university policy (see the current University Catalog and Student Handbook). If you have any question whatsoever if something is considered plagiarism, please see me BEFORE you turn it in.

Grading Scale:

Based on the average of each of the exams, plus the points earned for the homework, which is 20% of the final grade

- 90-100% = A
- 80-89% = B
- 70-79% = C
- 60-69% = D
- Below 60% = F
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<td>Biological Beginnings</td>
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