Description and Goals of the Course

This course will introduce you to major theories and topics in the field of developmental psychology. We will emphasize theories of attachment and successful development throughout the lifespan, in terms of normative physical, cognitive, social and emotional development.

A combination of readings, lecture, class discussion, and written work will be used throughout the course. There is a lot of reading, and to be successful in this course, you will need to not only read the assigned materials, but read them carefully, critically, and actively. The goal of this course is to understand the material and how it may relate to you and people you know.

Student Learning Outcomes.
1) Accurately describe the main points of the developmental theories we cover in the textbook; and how they apply to development throughout the lifespan.
2) Use the information from your text as background knowledge and information to apply to real-world situations.

Requirements and Grades:


Please read assigned chapters from the text before the class during which we will discuss them.

Blackboard: This course will use Blackboard. Please check it regularly, as announcements will be posted there, as well as any changes to the syllabus or assignments. If you do not know your login information for Blackboard, please contact the IT Help Desk, (361) 825-2692. If there are issues within your Blackboard course, please contact me first, as typically the instructor is the only one who can make changes/fix issues within a course. If you are having technical difficulties, please contact the IT Help Desk or your Internet Service Provider.

Evaluation (Total points possible for course = 600):

Quizzes (140 points). There will be 8 online quizzes, 7 of which will count towards the final grade (lowest score will be dropped). Each quiz is worth 20 points. The quizzes will cover material for the following week, and will encourage you to read the information prior to class. The quizzes will cover the textbook chapters and will be available online for you to take outside of class at the specified time. Typically, quizzes will be available for about 24 hours, to allow students a good deal of flexibility. Tests will be timed and points deducted when the time limit is exceeded. Please register online at: https://www.eztestonline.com/403997/index1.tpx using your real name so that I will recognize you and be able to enter your scores onto my grade-book.
Exams (300 points). There will be 3 in-class exams. They will cover the textbook chapters and any additional information covered in class. Exams will be multiple choice and short answer. Each exam will be worth 100 points. A comprehensive final exam will be given at the end of the semester. If you are satisfied with your grade after the third exam you may opt out of the final exam. However, if you are missing an exam score or would like the opportunity to improve your exam average, you may take the final exam, which will replace your lowest exam grade.

Naturalistic Observation (100 points). This will be an opportunity to practice the skills learned in the beginning of the semester while actually having the chance to see much of what we talk about in class, in person. Further instructions will be provided. The paper that you will write will be due on Tuesday, November 26th.

Attendance/In-class activities/assignments/participation (60 points). 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. Attendance will be taken throughout the semester. If you are late to class or leave early, you will not receive credit for that class. Time permitting; there may be some in-class assignments. These will not be announced ahead of time. This work will be tied to in-class discussions and so will constitute the “participation” part of your grade. Credit for in-class work will be based on completeness and accuracy. Late work will not be accepted. Incomplete work or missing part of the class (arriving late or leaving early) may result in loss of credit for that assignment.

90-100% (540-600 points) - A indicates work of distinction, of consistent and exceptionally high quality  
80-89% (480 – 539 points) - B indicates good work, maybe not consistent or of distinction  
70-79% (420 – 479 points) - C indicates average work  
60-69% (360 – 419 points) - D indicates marginal work  
Below 60% (below 360 points)- F indicates unacceptable work

VERY IMPORTANT - LATE WORK/MISSED EXAMS: No late assignments will be accepted without deduction of points as this creates inequalities between students who prepare their work on time and those who do not, and also creates difficulties in grading for the instructor. Emergency situations which require you to miss an exam/deadline must be discussed with me in advance or as soon as they arise.

A few words about Classroom and online etiquette:

➢ Treat other students, teaching assistants/graders, and the instructor with respect. During discussions, feel free to express your disagreement with ideas but refrain from criticizing or belittling anyone (including researchers, authors, etc.) with whom you disagree. Also, while I understand the demands on a college student’s life (social, work-related and academic), I consider sleeping in class disrespectful.

➢ Please also respect your classmates’ desire to learn in an environment free from unnecessary distractions. Do not engage in any behavior that is disruptive to the class. This includes engaging in side conversations, talking on the phone, reading or writing that has nothing to do with the class, surfing the web, sending or receiving text messages, etc. If I see this going on in class, I will assume that you are not participating and may ask you to leave.
> Turn off all cell phones, and electronic alarms before class begins. If you have a specific situation that you feel requires you to use an electronic device, please see me before class.

> If it is absolutely necessary for you to enter or leave the classroom once class is in session, do so in the quietest and least disruptive fashion possible. If there is an emergency that you know about ahead of time, please let me know. Please do not schedule other important activities such as work or meetings during class time. You will not be excused from in-class work missed when you schedule other activities such as these during class meeting times.

**Academic Honesty**
All forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class. This includes, but is not limited to: handing in another’s work as your own, using unauthorized notes in an exam, copying another’s answers for an exam, turning in the same papers for two different classes, purchasing or otherwise obtaining papers written by another and turning that work in as your own. It is expected that ideas and information used in your work, which are not part of your own personal experience, will be appropriately referenced (seek help if you do not know how to reference your sources; I can help you, and there are other resources available on campus). If academic dishonesty is suspected, I will follow the disciplinary guidelines in the TAMUCC student code of conduct.

**Academic Advising**
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. 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.

**Notice to Students with Disabilities**
Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible. Please have your accommodation letter from Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi Disability Services (DS) Office with you when you come see me. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Disability Services Office (located in 116 Corpus Christi Hall) at 361.825.5816.

**Grade Appeal Process**
Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, [cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html](http://cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean.
Course Calendar (Tentative)

Week 1: Welcome/Intro to Class and Text/Research Methods  Chapter 1
Week 2: Biological Beginnings  Chapter 2
Week 3: Physical Development  Chapter 3
Week 4: Motor, Sensory and Perceptual Development  Chapter 5
Week 5: Cognitive Development and Information Processing  Chapter 6-7
Week 6: Intelligence  Chapter 8
Week 7: Language Development  Chapter 9
Week 8: Emotional Development  Chapter 10
Week 9: Identity, Personality, Sexuality and Gender  Chapter 11-12
Week 10: Moral Development  Chapter 13
Week 11: Families, Peers and the Sociocultural World  Chapter 14-15
Final Exam: Monday, December 8th at 8:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Syllabus subject to change