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, including for exams. 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.

**Exams.** There will have 3 online exams and 1 in-class exam. 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. The comprehensive final is **mandatory** for students with a C or lower, it is **optional** for students with a B or higher. It will replace your lowest test grade.

**Attendance/In-class activities/assignments/participation.** 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% - A | indicates work of distinction, of consistent and exceptionally high quality |
| 80-89% - B | indicates good work, maybe not consistent or of distinction |
| 70-79% - C | indicates average work |
| 60-69% - D | indicates marginal work |
| Below 60% - 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.
Classroom/professional behavior

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

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.

Statement of Civility

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.
Academic Integrity/Plagiarism

Definition: In an instructional setting, plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else’s language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source. Plagiarism is a violation academic expectations, but it is sometimes difficult to understand what plagiarism actually is. Often, students commit unintentional plagiarism (not citing sources properly, for example), because they are unaware of the standards that apply. Plagiarism includes:

* Using the work of another as your own,

* Downloading or purchasing ready-made essays off the web and using them as your own,

* Using resource materials without correct documentation,

* Using the organization or language of a source without using quote marks and proper citation.

* Turning in a researched project without citing sources in an appropriate documentation style.

When you are confused about citation of quotes or ideas, please visit the Writing Center to get help. Information on MLA documentation rules and APA documentation rules is available at Purdue University’s OWL: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/, and from our local Writing Center at CASA.

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. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

Dropping a Class

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a
course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class.

Disabilities Accommodations

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

Grade Appeal

As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, 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 Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals. These documents are accessible online at: http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade Appeals.pdf. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal in CLA, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html.

Statement of Academic Continuity

In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.
Course Calendar (Tentative)

Week 2 (1/21): Labor Day holiday No class
Week 3 (1/28): Semester Project Outline
Week 4 (2/04): Infancy - Physical, Cognitive and Socioemotional Development Chapter 3-4
Week 5 (2/11): Early Childhood - Physical, Cognitive and Socioemotional Development Chapter 5-6
Week 6 (2/18): Exam 1 via Blackboard Chapters 1-6
Week 7 (2/25): Middle and Late Childhood Chapter 7-8
Week 8 (3/04): Adolescence Chapter 9-10

Week 9 (3/11-3/18) Spring Break

Week 10 (3/18) Exam 2 via Blackboard Ch. 7-10
Week 11 (3/25): Early Adulthood Chapter 11-12
Week 12 (4/01): Middle Adulthood Chapters 13-14

Week 13 (4/08) Exam 3 via Blackboard Chapters 11-14
Week 14 (4/15) Late Adulthood Chapters 15-16

Week 15 (4/22) Death, Dying, Grieving & Exam 4 Chapter 17 & Exam 4*in class

Week 16 (4/29) Reading Day

Final Exam: Monday, May 6th at 7:15 p.m.-9:45 p.m.
***Mandatory for those with a C or lower. Comprehensive Final.

Syllabus subject to change