

## **Child Development**

PSYC 250

Fall 2018

**Instructor:** Dr. Elizabeth A. Adams

**Office:** 219 Davie Hall

**Office hours:** Wednesday 11:00am-12:45pm and by appointment

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\*For Teaching Assistant Contact info and office hours please see Sakai

Child Development is designed to introduce theory and research regarding development from the prenatal period through adolescence. I hope that by the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Describe classic and current research on multiple aspects of child development
2. Compare major theoretical approaches to describing and explaining child development
3. Evaluate the complex causes of development and developmental outcomes
4. Apply course concepts to understanding individual developmental outcomes
5. Understand your own development in a new and/or improved way

## **Course Components and Requirements**

### **Lectures**

Lectures will include some of the same information as the textbook, but they will also include additional information, demonstrations, and video clips. Attendance is encouraged, and there will be exam questions on material covered in lecture that is not in the book.

### **Textbooks**

We will use *How Children Develop* by Siegler, DeLoache, and Eisenberg (Feel free to use an older edition) and as a supplement (non-mandatory) I will be referencing *Life-span Human Development* by Sigelman and Rider (older editions are fine). See the course calendar for chapters required for each topic. This textbook presents a generous amount of information that adds to the material covered in class meetings.

### **Reflection Essays**

There will be two short essays that you complete outside of class and submit on Sakai. The purpose of these writing assignments is to prompt you to think about why you are taking this class and what you are learning from it. Full details about the papers and instructions for submitting them are posted on Sakai. The first essay will be worth 1 point, and the second is worth 2 points.

### **Academic Journal Article**

For this assignment, you will locate and read an article in one of the top academic journals in the field of developmental psychology. You will read the article and write a short paper about what you learned from this primary source, and engage in analysis. Full details will be posted on Sakai. This assignment is worth 5 points.

### **Research Project**

You will complete one project outside of class. The project will involve collecting some information and writing a short paper. There are many different project options in order to give you the freedom to choose one that will be the most enjoyable and educational to you. Full information about all project options is available on Sakai. The project is 15 worth points (1 Point for the Research Project Progress Report and 14 points for the final paper).

### **Online Quizzes**

I have created multiple-choice quizzes in order to help you understand and review the material. You will complete these quizzes on Sakai, and they are open note. Because the purpose of these quizzes is to prompt you to learn the material you should do them on your own and not simply copy someone else's answers. If you do not submit your quiz on Sakai there is no make-up for those points, all points will be forfeited. It is suggested you submit your quiz early to avoid any complications. Each quiz is worth 1 point.

### **Exams**

There will be three multiple-choice exams on your understanding of the course material. To do well on these exams, attend lecture and pay attention to details as well as general themes. Each exam is worth 12 points.

### **Final Exam**

The final exam will be multiple-choice, cumulative and is worth 30 points.

### **Professional Conduct**

Professional conduct points are easy points to earn and should be difficult points to lose. Points will be taken away for students not following the guidelines of the syllabus, not being courteous and respectful to your classmates, violations of honor code, engaging in grade groveling, asking for information that can be found in your syllabus or on Sakai, asking for make-up points for a missed quiz, emailing course related questions instead of posting in the Sakai discussion forum, etc.

## **Grades**

Your letter grade is determined by the total number of points you earn. I will use Sakai to post the points you earn so you will be able to check your progress at any time. If it looks like any score has not been posted correctly, please let me know.

There will be NO CURVE. Curves often reward students who have poor study habits and mediocre comprehension. If you work hard to truly learn the material, you'll get a good grade and you won't need a curve. Curving can also discourage talented students from working up to their potential; I want everyone to learn as much as they can. In addition, curves can create counterproductive competition and unfair resentment toward students who do well and "ruin" the curve. It is my hope that you will work with others to optimize your learning experience.

Points can be earned from the following class components:

Reflection essays (1 <sup>st</sup> = 1 point, 2 <sup>nd</sup> = 2 points)	= 3 points
Research project	= 15
Academic journal article	= 5
Online quizzes (3 @ 1 point each)	= 3

Exams (3 @ 12 points each)	= 36
Attendance Quizzes (3 @ 1 point each)	= 3
Professional Conduct	= 5
Final exam	= 30
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Total	= 100 points

## Grades (continued)

This table shows the number of points required to get each letter grade:

94 – 100 = A	87 – 89 = B+	77 – 79 = C+	67 – 69 = D+
90 – 93 = A-	84 – 86 = B	74 – 76 = C	60 – 66 = D
	80 – 83 = B-	70 – 73 = C-	Less than 60 = F

The following descriptions indicate what each grade is designed to reflect:

A = exceptional understanding of all material, including classroom material and assigned readings, general ideas and specific details, and facts as well as applications

B = very good understanding, but some gaps in mastering details or applications

C = satisfactory understanding with substantial gaps in understanding of details and applications; may not have completed all of the reading

D = minimally acceptable, superficial understanding of general ideas with failure to grasp details, applications and connections among general ideas

\* My grading scale is more lenient than most professors at UNC therefore, I do not round up Final Grades (e.g. if you earn a 86.75, I do not *give* an additional .25 point to make your grade an 87). Final grades are not subject to negotiation. Grades can be changed only if there is a clerical error.

## Extra Credit?

There is no extra credit, no bumping up, no free points. Please don't ask for any of these things. Your grade will be based on completing the regular work of the course throughout the semester. If you need help with concepts or problems, please see me.

## Class Policies

### Academic Honesty

The Honor Code is in effect at all times to ensure the integrity of our learning experiences. In accordance with the Honor Code, students must sign a pledge on each paper and exam to state that they have complied with the Honor Code. For our exams, this means that you take them without help of notes, books, other people or any other kind of external aid. It also means that you take steps to reduce the possibility of others' cheating by protecting your own examination paper from the view of others.

### Make-up Policy for Online Quizzes

If you miss an online quiz, there is no make-up, do not ask to make-up the points. If you anticipate some conflict with a quiz deadline, then submit it EARLY. Because we are using an online quiz program, it is your responsibility to deal with any computer, internet or power problems that might interfere with your completion of the quiz. If your own computer is broken, then go to a computer lab on campus and use Sakai there. I strongly encourage you to submit each quiz at least 24 hours BEFORE the final deadline. If you have some computer problem, then this should give you enough time to get to a computer lab and submit the quiz by the deadline. Once that deadline passes, the quiz is automatically removed from Sakai and is no longer available. These quizzes must be completed and submitted online. No paper or emailed copies will be accepted.

## **Make-up Policy for Exams**

The dates for the exams are listed on the course calendar. Exam dates will never change so mark them on your calendar right now and plan around them. If you miss an exam for any reason, then your final exam grade will count for a larger proportion of your grade (The total # of points allocated for the final plus the total number of points allocated for the missed exam).

There will be NO exceptions to this policy, regardless of the circumstances.

## **Late Assignments**

The deadlines for submitting reflection essays, journal article, and project paper are listed on the course calendar and on Sakai. If you anticipate some conflict with a deadline, then submit EARLY. Because we are using an online submission process, it is your responsibility to deal with any computer, internet or power problems that might delay your submission. If your own computer is malfunctioning, then use a computer in one of the labs on campus (<http://its.unc.edu/labs/>). Papers are submitted on Sakai only (no paper copies, no emailed papers). Late submissions will be accepted **only** until the last day of class (\*note not the day before your final exam, but the last day of class as designated by the University), but there will be a 50% late penalty.

## **Final Exam Schedule**

We must take our final exam at the time assigned to us by the University. If you need to reschedule because you have two exams at the same time or three exams within 24 hours, you must see an academic advisor or dean in Academic Advising for an exam excuse form. When you give me your official exam excuse form, you will be provided with the time and location of the rescheduled exam.

## **Class Attendance Policy**

Regular class attendance is a student obligation, and a student is responsible for all the work, including tests and written work, of all class meetings. No right or privilege exists that permits a student to be absent from any class meetings except for excused absences for authorized University activities (see below) or religious observances required by the student's faith. If a student misses three consecutive class meetings, or misses more classes than the course instructor deems advisable, the course instructor may report the facts to the student's academic dean.

Students are authorized up to two excused absences each academic year for religious observances required by their faith. Students who wish to request more than two excused absences in an academic year for religious observances required by their faith will need to contact their course instructors and request the additional absence, which will only be granted with the course instructor's permission. Primary holy days for religious observance are noted on a Web-based interfaith calendar site at [www.interfaithcalendar.org](http://www.interfaithcalendar.org).

Students are responsible for providing a written notice for an excused absence for a religious observance two weeks in-advance of the date requested or as soon as possible if the date occurs within the first two weeks of the semester.

Only course instructors excuse absences from class for valid reasons (illness or family emergency, religious observance, etc.). A student should present his or her explanation for any absences in writing to the course instructor in advance if the reason for the absence could be foreseen, or as soon as possible thereafter if the reason for the absence could not be foreseen.

A student may appeal a course instructor's denial of a request that an absence be excused if the request to be excused from class and the reasons for the request are presented to the course instructor in writing within the time limits above. The appeal is to be made to the course instructor's immediate academic supervisor.

Students who are members of regularly organized and authorized University activities and who may be out of town taking part in some scheduled event are to be excused during the approved period of

absence. Notification of such an absence must be sent by the responsible University official to the course instructor before the date(s) of the scheduled absence.

## **Exam Day Procedures**

1. First and foremost, try to focus on each exam as a chance to show what you have learned and get rewarded for studying. Have a positive attitude and try to stay relaxed. Take a few deep breaths before starting the exam to calm your nerves.
2. Please bring the following to each exam:
  - A scantron answer sheet: These are available in the bookstore. Fill in your name and PID ahead of time. Please do not write anything in the margins or any blank area of the answer sheet. This will cause your exam to be graded incorrectly.
  - Two #2 pencils and an eraser
  - Your One Card: You may be asked to show this when you turn in your exam
3. We will start the exam promptly. Please arrive before the scheduled time to find your favorite seat and get settled.
4. Exams must be turned in by the end of our scheduled class period.
5. Students who arrive late will be admitted as long as no one has left the classroom. Once one student has finished the exam and left the room, no one else will be seated for the exam. Some students finish exams very fast so you should do everything you can to get to class on time. Set multiple alarm clocks. Arrange for a trustworthy friend to make sure you wake up on time.
6. Late arriving students who are admitted to the exam will not be given additional time.
7. Exam scores will be posted on Sakai.

## **Other Information**

### **For students working with Disability Services**

Please see me as soon as possible to discuss any alternate arrangements.

### **For students who are on academic probation, at risk of being academically ineligible, at risk of losing a scholarship due to low GPA, or repeating this course...**

I sincerely want you to do well, and we will be happy to work with you outside of class to help you attain your goal. Do not wait until the end of the semester to see us if you are having difficulty. If you get a bad grade on the first exam, you should see me immediately so we can discuss strategies for doing better on the next exam. The sooner we address the situation, the more likely you are to succeed.

### **For everyone!**

I want you to learn a lot and have a good experience in this class. Please feel free to meet me if you have any questions or concerns. If my office hours are not convenient for you, then email or catch me after class to make an appointment to meet at a time that is good for you.

*This syllabus is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in lecture and on Sakai.*