

DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY, PSY 230, Spring 2008
SYLLABUS AND COURSE OUTLINE
Tuesday, Thursday from 12:30-1:45 p.m. GMCS 301

Instructor: Dr. Joseph M. Price, Professor
Department of Psychology, SDSU

- I. **Course Description:** The focus of this course will be on: (a) the sequence of human development from conception through early adulthood; (b) major developmental processes within various domains of development (e.g., physical, cognitive, emotional, language, moral, and social); (c) theoretical perspectives currently being used to guide developmental research; (d) research methodology used in developmental psychology; (e) the contexts of development (e.g., family, society, and culture); and (f) applications of developmental theory and research.
- II. **Objectives:** The primary goal of this course is to increase student understanding of the sequence of human development, the processes underlying developmental change and stability (e.g., hereditary and environmental influences), explanations for individual differences in development, and the theoretical perspectives and research methods currently being used to examine human development.

III. **Textbook (Required):**

Berger, K.S. (2005). The Developing Person Through the Life Span: 6th Edition. New York: Worth. See The Berger Companion Web Site at www.worthpublishers.com/berger for additional study materials.

IV. **Course Requirements:**

- A. Reading Assignments as specified on course schedule.
B. Examinations as scheduled (4). For each exam approximately 50% of the questions will come from the text readings and 50% from the lecture material.

- V. **Attendance:** Although attendance will not be taken in this course, students are expected to attend every lecture. It will be impossible to receive a passing grade in this course without understanding *and knowing* the material presented both in the text and during the lectures.

VI. **Grading Procedures and Policy**

- A. Examinations: 4(60 points each).

1. Types of questions that may be used: multiple choice, matching, fill-in, and essay.
2. Scaling for each exam and the final grade. There is no curving.

A (93.3%)	A - (90.0%)	B+ (86.6%)	B (83.3%)
B - (80.0%)	C+ (76.6%)	C (73.3%)	C - (70.0%)
D+ (66.6%)	D (63.3%)	D - (60.0%)	F (59.9% or less)

3. Exam Policy: You must take the exam at the date and time specified on the course outline. So, schedule your end-of-the semester plans accordingly. Missing an exam because you got the date, time or place wrong is **not** an acceptable excuse. Make up exams are only considered in cases of illness or family emergency and are determined on case-by-case basis.
 4. SCANTRON: RED SCANTRON FORM NO. **F-288-PAR-L** (STUDENT ENROLLMENT SHEET) IS REQUIRED FOR THE FIRST EXAM, AND FORM NO. **F-289-PAR -L** (TEST FORM) IS REQUIRED ON EXAMS 2-4.
 5. Cheating: In the event an individual is caught cheating on an exam, the individual will receive 0 points for that particular exam. In addition, for all subsequent exams the individual will be proctored by the instructor at a time and place determined by the instructor (e.g., 7:00 a.m. in the instructor's office). Finally, the individual will also be referred to the University Student Affairs Office for disciplinary action.
 6. Challenges to an Exam Grade or Question: All challenges to an exam grade or question or to the correctness of an answer to a particular exam question must be put *in writing*. Empirical evidence supporting the challenge must be provided. For example, citing the paragraph and page number in the text for an alternative answer is acceptable. However, recalling from your experiences with your own child or other children is **not** acceptable. You are being tested over the material presented in the lectures, film presentations, and the text, and not over your life experiences.
- B. Extra Credit: There will be 5 extra credit questions on all four exams. These questions will cover material from the previous exam or from the course syllabus, and will be worth one point each.

There are no other ways to receive extra credit in this course.

- C. Final Grades: Final grades will be based on the sum of the four exam scores (240 possible) and the extra credit points you earn (20 possible). Grades will be calculated on 240 points. However, with the extra credit points, it is possible to receive a total of 260 points.

VII. Cell Phone Use. Out of courtesy to your instructor and your fellow classmates, please switch your cell phone to "silent" mode when class is in session. If you need to answer a call (such as in an emergency), please exit the classroom before answering. Cell phones must be "put away" with other personnel items during exams.

VIII. Office Hours: By appointment only. My office is at 6363 Alvarado Ct., Suite 103, Room 6. Directions: From College Ave, take Alvarado Rd. east to Alvarado Ct. This is the first street on the right. The first building on the right is 6363. Enter the front of the building and proceed to the right to Suite 103. My office phone number is: 619-594-5241, and my email address is: jprice@sunstroke.sdsu.edu.

IX. Course Outline

Date	Topic	Chapter Assignment
Jan 22	The Study of Human Development: Assumptions, Issues, & Controversies	1
Jan 24	Current Theoretical Perspectives	2
Jan 29	Research Methodology	1
Jan 31	Hereditary Influences on Development	3
Feb 5	Prenatal Development	4
Feb 7	Prenatal Development	4
Feb 12	Birth & the Newborn	4
Feb. 14	Exam #1	Chapters 1 - 4
Feb. 19	Biosocial Development	5 & 8
Feb 21	Infancy and Early Childhood	5 & 8
Feb 26	Cognitive Development:	6 & 9
Feb 28	Infancy and Early Childhood	6 & 9
March 4	Psychosocial Development:	7 & 10
March 6	Infancy and Early Childhood	7 & 10
March 11	"" "" ""	7 & 10
March 13	Exam #2	Chapters 5 - 10
March 18	Childhood	11
March 20	Childhood	12
March 25	Childhood	13
March 27	Childhood	13
April 1 & April 3 -- Spring Break	No Classes	
April 8	Adolescence	14
April 10	Adolescence	15
April 15	Adolescence	16
April 17	Adolescence	16
April 22	Exam #3	Chapters 11 - 16
April 24	Early Adulthood	17
April 29	Early Adulthood	17
May 1	Early Adulthood	18
May 6	Early Adulthood	19
May 8	Early Adulthood	19
May 13	Exam #4 (Chapters 17 – 19)	ROOM: GMSC 301; 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.