

PSYCHOLOGY 375

DEVELOPMENT -- WINTER 1996

138 GIL Tues & Thurs 2:00 - 3:20

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Course Description:

This course is designed to provide you with a general introduction to theoretical, empirical, and applied issues in developmental psychology. The course concentrates particularly on an exploration of the process of development -- we will pursue state-of-the-art knowledge about the mechanisms that underlie developmental change in human beings. Reflecting the current state of the field, the major focus of the course is on development in infancy and childhood, although some attention will also be given to adolescent development.

Textbook:

Vasta, R., Haith, M.M., & Miller, S.A. (1995). Child Psychology: The Modern Science (2nd ed.). New York: John Wiley.

Lectures and Readings:

Attached is a list of lecture topics and reading assignments. The lecture topics will generally supplement rather than retrace materials presented in the text.

Exams:

There will be two midterms and a final exam. Exams will be multiple choice and essay format. They will each be worth 1/3 of the total grade and will not be cumulative. Make-up exams will be given only in extreme circumstances (e.g., serious illness). Under no circumstances will the final exam be given to any student at an earlier time than scheduled. If you know you will be unable to take the final exam when scheduled, you need to drop the course.

Optional Practicum:

For students who are interested it is possible to enroll in an optional 1-credit practicum associated with this course. The two practica offered are Children and the Law and Children and Education. Practica will involve attending six group sessions, which will include activities such as an organizational meeting, viewing a relevant video, a guest speaker from the community, a local community site visit, a round-table discussion, and a poster session. Requirements for the practicum include attendance at all sessions, completion of all assigned reading material and associated reaction statements/questions, and completion of a group poster to be presented at a poster session held during the last week of classes. If interested, please attend the organizational meeting Thursday, January 11 at 3:30 p.m. in Room 146 Straub Hall.

OUTLINE OF LECTURE TOPICS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>
Jan. 9	Introduction to Development	Chs. 1-2
Jan. 11	Research Methods	Ch. 3
Jan. 16	Prenatal Development	Chs. 4-5
Jan. 18	Birth & Neonatal Abilities	Ch. 6
Jan. 23-30	Perceptual & Cognitive Development	Chs. 7-8
Feb. 1	MIDTERM 1	
Feb. 6-8	Language Development	Ch. 11
Feb. 13	Early Social & Emotional Development	Ch. 12
Feb. 15	Development of the Self	Ch. 13
Feb. 20	Moral Development	Ch. 14
Feb. 22	Children & Familial Conflict/Divorce	
Feb. 27	MIDTERM 2	
Feb. 29	Gender Role Development	Ch. 15
Mar. 5	Issues in Developmental Neuroscience	
Mar. 7	Aggression in Childhood	Ch. 16
Mar. 12	Memory Development & Children as Witnesses	Chs. 9 & 10
Mar. 14	Wrap-Up	
Mar. 22	FINAL EXAM 1:00 p.m.	