

Instructor: Kirby Deater-Deckard, Ph.D.
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Office hours: Mon 1-3 & by appt

Content: We will use a *developmental psychopathology* framework for studying the nature and course of normal and abnormal social, emotional, behavioral, and cognitive development. The focus will be on the underlying core features of psychopathology (e.g., emotion, memory, attachment) and core mechanisms (e.g., deviancy training, socialization, gene-environment interaction). Although emphasis will be placed on psychopathology in childhood and adolescence, we will discuss some theories and research methods that apply to the entire lifespan. Prerequisites: PSY 302/303, background in developmental psychology strongly recommended (e.g., PSY 375/475/478)

Format: assigned readings, instructor and guest presentations, small- and large-group discussions; emphasis on critical thinking and writing skills.

Reading: required reading includes articles/chapters, which will be available on-line/by email. To access the papers, you will need email/internet access, MS Word, and Adobe Reader. No textbook required, but instructor can recommend good general sources for those who are interested.

Grading: Standard 10-point +/- scale is used (e.g., 80% to 83% B-, 84% to 86% B, 87% to 89% B+). Grade comprised of: 50% writing assignments, 50% participation (details below).

Assignments that are late will be graded down one whole letter grade for each hour late. Assignments are due in class or as otherwise specified. These can be turned in to the department secretary between 8am-noon, and 1-4pm. Do not leave assignments at or under instructor's door.

Participation (50% of grade): read before meeting, attend meeting, participate in discussion and in-class exercises (40% of grade); co-facilitate discussion at one meeting (10% of grade; sign-up *tba*).

Writing (50% of grade): 3 assignments (see below for details).

1. **Reaction paper 1:** 4-5pp, due W Jan 28 (10% of grade)
2. **Reaction paper 2:** 4-5pp, due W Mar 3 (10% of grade)
3. **Term paper:** 13-15pp, due M Mar 15 by 4pm (30% of grade)

Draft of term paper (optional): you can receive feedback on one draft of term paper (due W Feb 25); instructor will provide feedback but not a grade. The draft does not serve as a completion of the assignment; a final version must be turned in on the term paper deadline. Regardless of whether you revise based on the feedback provided, you must turn in the original draft with instructor comments when you submit final version of paper, or it will not be graded.

If you think you may require accommodations in this course because you are learning English as a second language or you have a documented disability, speak with the instructor immediately. Students with documented disabilities should ask the Counselor for Students with Disabilities to send a verifying letter to the instructor by the end of the 1st week of class.

Writing Assignments

Use APA format for all writing assignments. Assignments that have not used APA format will be returned without a grade.

Reaction Papers Instructions

4-5 pp double-spaced (1-inch margins, 11 or 12-point standard [courier, times new roman] font)

Use primary, published sources only (books and journal articles). Contact instructor if you have a question about whether your source article/chapter is suitable.

Select one of the assigned readings (for Reaction Paper 1, select from 1st half of the course; for Reaction Paper 2, select from 2nd half of course). Choose a key concept, finding, or interpretation in that reading, and find additional sources on that same idea (empirical or review articles only). These additional sources can be in agreement with or in opposition to the assigned reading. Read these thoroughly, and write an essay describing the concept/finding/interpretation, how the research has been conducted, and how this research informs us about the development of psychopathology. You also can critique the studies, and describe how future research might address the limitations of these studies. Avoid writing an opinion piece; make a strong case for your perspective by backing it up with empirical evidence from the research literature.

PSY 480 Students: include a minimum of 2 additional sources

PSY 580 Students: include a minimum of 3 additional sources

Term Paper Instructions

13-15 pp double-spaced (1-inch margins, 11 or 12-point standard font). You will write a grant proposal, using the NSF (National Science Foundation) format. You will provide background (literature review), aims/hypotheses, methods and statistical analysis plan for your proposed study. More detailed instructions and an example proposal will be provided.