

PSYC 211-DL2 Developmental Psychology

Fall 2017

Instructor: Xiaozhu An
Email: xan@gmu.edu
Office Hours: Wednesdays from 13:30 – 14:30 pm, or by appointment
Office Location: David King Hall 1022 (through David King Hall 1021)

Textbooks

Text: Feldman, R.S. (2014). Development Across the Life Span. (7/e). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson.

Note: Other editions of the textbook are ok, but make sure that the chapters you are reading align with the week's topic.

Course Objectives

This course will emphasize major theories and research related to human cognitive, social, personality, and physical development from birth to death.

Course Requirements and Grading Details

Exams (60%) Three non-cumulative exams and one cumulative final exam will be given via Blackboard. Each exam is worth 15% of your final grade.

Discussion Board Posts (20%) Students will read an assigned article and will discuss it with classmates in the class discussion board. Each student will write a paragraph describing his or her thoughts on the article, or a paragraph responding to another student. Additional responses are encouraged, but not required. Each post is worth 4% of your final grade.

Course Project (20%) Students will choose a topic relevant to developmental psychology and write a paper on that topic. Instructions will be posted to Blackboard. The project may be turned in via Blackboard at any point in the semester between 9/29 and 12/1.

Final Grades: Grades from exams and assignments will be averaged according to the weighting system described above. Final grades will fall into one of the following categories:

98 – 100: A+	93 – 97: A	90 – 92: A-
88 – 89: B+	83 – 87: B	80 – 82: B-
78 – 79: C+	73 – 77: C	70 – 72: C-
65 – 69: D	64 and below: F	

General Policies

Format: This course will take place entirely online. Materials (lecture videos, slides, assignment instructions, etc.) will be posted by each Monday and **all readings, assignments, and exams will be due by 5pm on the following Friday**. Students should view lecture videos and study lecture slides during the week that they are posted. Students should also view supplementary videos, which are organized by week in playlists on my YouTube channel. Students are welcome to come to in-person office hours, or to make an appointment for an online meeting. Questions or appointment requests may be emailed to the instructor at xan@gmu.edu

Late Work: No late work will be accepted and no make up exams will be given, except in the case of a documented emergency. If you have an emergency, let me know as soon as possible and I will try to accommodate you.

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity refers to honest and ethical behavior in all aspects of academic activity. This includes: not cheating on exams or homework assignments (e.g., copying the work of others or using crib notes), not passing off someone else's ideas as your own (plagiarism), not engaging in dishonesty of any kind with regard to your class participation and assignments.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of another person's labor, another person's ideas, another person's words, or

another person's assistance. *Unless otherwise stated in class, all work done for courses -- papers, examinations, homework exercises, laboratory reports, oral presentations -- is expected to be the individual effort of the student presenting the work.* Any assistance must be reported to the instructor. If the work has entailed consulting other resources -- journals, books, or other media -- these resources must be cited in a manner appropriate to the course. Everything used from other sources -- suggestions for organization of ideas, ideas themselves, or actual language -- must be cited. Failure to cite borrowed material constitutes plagiarism. Undocumented use of materials from the World Wide Web is plagiarism. If you are caught plagiarizing or cheating, you will fail the assignment, and, depending upon the severity of the violation, you may fail the class.

Honor Code: George Mason University has an Honor Code, which requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all prohibited. All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee.

See honorcode.gmu.edu for detailed information.

Technology statement: Official communication will be conducted only through Mason email addresses and Blackboard. Please check your email regularly to ensure that you are up to date on course happenings.

Disability Statement: If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office. Accommodations MUST BE MADE BEFORE assignments are due. I cannot adjust your grade after the fact.

Course Cancellation Policy: If class must be cancelled, students will be notified via email as soon as possible.

Important Administrative Dates

08/28

First day of classes

09/05	Last day to add classes
09/05	Last day to drop with no tuition penalty
09/19	Last day to drop with 33% tuition penalty
09/29	Last day to drop with 67% tuition penalty
10/02-10/27	Selective withdrawal period
10/09	Columbus Day recess
11/22-11/26	Thanksgiving recess
12/09	Last day of classes
12/13-12/20	University exam period

Course Schedule

Week of	Topic	Reading	Assignments
8/28	Introduction	Ch. 1	
9/4	Major Theorists		Discussion Board Post #1 due by 5pm on 9/8
9/11	Research Methods		
9/18	Prenatal and Neonatal Development	Ch. 2 & 3	
9/25	Exam week, no new content		Exam 1 due by 5pm on 9/29 Course Project submission opens on 9/29 (submit anytime before 12/1)

10/2	Infancy	Ch. 4, 5, & 6	Discussion Board Post #2 due by 5pm on 10/6
10/9	Preschool	Ch. 7 & 8	
10/16	Middle Childhood	Ch. 9 & 10	Discussion Board Post #3 due by 5pm on 10/20
10/23	Adolescence	Ch. 11 & 12	
10/30	Exam week, no new content		Exam 2 due by 5pm on 11/3
11/6	Early Adulthood	Ch. 13 & 14	
11/13	Middle Adulthood	Ch. 15 & 16	Discussion Board Post #4 due by 5pm on 11/17
11/20	Late Adulthood	Ch. 17 & 18	Discussion Board Post #5 due by 5pm on 11/24
11/27	Death and Dying	Ch. 19	Course Project due by 5pm on 12/1

12/4	Exam week, no new content		Exam 3 due by 5pm on 12/8
12/13	Exam week, no new content		Cumulative Final Exam due by 5pm on 12/15

Disclaimer

The instructor reserves the right to alter this syllabus. Any changes will be announced via email.