PSYC 211 – Developmental Psychology  
M W 7:20 – 10:00pm  
Innovation Hall 134

Instructor: Kate Zinsser, M.A.  
Office: 1024 David King Hall  
Phone: 703-993-1378  
Office Hours: Wed 6:00 – 7:00pm  
Email: kzinsser@gmu.edu*

Course Description:
This course is designed to provide students with a survey of theory and research on broad aspects of human development including cognitive, emotional, and social development across the lifespan. Given the schedule and size, this course will rely on a mixture of lecture, discussion, and multimedia presentations.

Readings:

Other readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Lectures:
While the readings will be selected primarily to support discussion and integration of course material, class lectures will provide students with the foundational content of the course. Limited lecture notes will be posted on black board following class meetings but should not be relied upon to replace physical attendance. Students will be responsible for all material presented in lecture and through class discussions. If you know you will have to miss a day of class, be sure to connect with a classmate for detailed class notes.

Requirements:

Participation (5%)
In order to have fully engaging class discussions, students will be asked to post two (2) discussions questions (one for each class topic) based on the reading assigned for that day. Questions should be posted on Black Board by 12 noon on each class day to allow discussion leaders ample time to prepare.

Discussion Leading (5%)
Once during the semester, each student will facilitate class discussion with a partner. It will be their responsibility to collect the discussion questions posted by classmates from BB and add additional thought provoking questions of their own. There will be one 15 minute period of discussion for each class topic (2 total discussions per class meeting). On the day that students lead discussion, they are not required to post questions to Black Board.

Reaction Paper (10%)
In conjunction with leading discussion, each discussion leader will also reflect on the topic and the readings in a 2-3pg reaction paper. The reaction paper should reflect your interpretations of the readings and integrate them with the topics discussed in class. The purpose of this assignment is to ensure that leaders have thought deeply about the topic before class so support a thorough discussion. Reaction papers must be turned in via Black Board by the start of class on the day due (7:20pm). Late assignments will not be accepted through Black Board and will not receive full credit.
Naturalistic Observations (40%)
Over the course of the semester, students will complete four (4) naturalistic observations. Students will observe individuals or groups of subjects of the specified age range in their natural environment (e.g. park, coffee shop, shopping center). Each observational session should last at least 30 minutes (although you can observe multiple subjects over the time period). Make note of who the subject interacts with, what types of behaviors are displayed, what type of interaction are observed (positive/negative; independent/dependent; etc.), and any other interesting observations. Upon completing the observation, students will write a 2 page reflection paper describing the subject(s) observed and tying in at least one theoretical or methodological perspective discussed in class to the behaviors observed. Observation papers must be turned in via Black Board by the start of class on the day due (7:20pm). Late assignments will not be accepted through Black Board and will not receive full credit.

Observation 1 (0-3 year olds) due 6/20/11
Observation 2 (4-8 year olds) due 6/27/11
Observation 3 (12-17 year olds) due 7/11/11
Observation 4 (Middle or Late Adulthood) 7/20/11

Quizzes (40%)
There will be four (4) non-cumulative quizzes throughout the course. These quizzes will be administered during the first hour of the designated class meeting. After a 10 minute break, lecture on new material will begin. There will be no opportunities to retake a missed quiz however, a make-up exam will be offered on the Final Exam Day (July 27th). This Make-Up exam is mandatory for anyone who has missed a quiz and will be cumulative. The grade earned on this will replace the 0 earned on a missed quiz. If you do not miss any quizzes, the final exam is optional and will replace your lowest quiz grade.

Miscellaneous Information

TECHNOLOGY
Given the fast pace necessitated by the summer semester schedule, this course will rely heavily on the Black Board platform version 9.1. It is the responsibility of every student to learn how to access Black Board and post assignments properly. Access the course through http://mymason.gmu.edu.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
Students in this course are expected to behave at all times in a manner consistent with the GMU Honor System and Code. (http://mason.gmu.edu/~montecin/plagiarism.htm). For all work, the name that appears on the paper must be the author’s. If you are using someone else’s work as a source, cite it. Please see details available at the website above. Violations of the Honor Code will not be tolerated in this course and will be immediately reported according to GMU procedures. The instructor reserves the right to use software to determine the extent to which the work is the student’s. The instructor for this course reserves the right to enter a failing grade for any student found guilty of an honor code violation.

MASON EMAIL ACCOUNTS
Students must use their Mason email account to receive important University information, including messages related to this class. Professors are prohibited from communicating with you via any other email address so please ensure that messages are appropriately forwarded and that your inbox does not over fill.

OFFICE OF DISABILITY SERVICES
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.
Life is stressful and we all need a little support sometimes. Students are encouraged to contact counseling Services (364 Student Union I) at 993-2385 for assistance with any kind of psychological/life problem or crisis situation. I can help with referrals for students with particular counseling needs so please feel free to talk with me for help with anything.

**The deadlines for adding and dropping B session classes are as follows:**
Add: June 10, 2011  
Drop: June 17, 2011

**Tentative Course Schedule***
A separate reading schedule will be distributed on the first day of class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics 1</th>
<th>Topic 2</th>
<th>Assignment Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Monday June 6th</td>
<td>Review Syllabus</td>
<td>History &amp; Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Wednesday June 8th</td>
<td>Prenatal Development</td>
<td>Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Monday June 13th</td>
<td>Infancy – Cognitive &amp; Physical Development</td>
<td>Infancy – Social Emotional Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Wednesday June 15th</td>
<td>Quiz 1</td>
<td>Watch “Babies”</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Monday June 20th</td>
<td>Early Childhood – Physical Development</td>
<td>Early Childhood - TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Wednesday June 22nd</td>
<td>Early Childhood – Social Emotional Development</td>
<td>Middle Childhood -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Monday June 27th</td>
<td>Middle Childhood -</td>
<td>Observation 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Wednesday June 29th</td>
<td>Quiz 2</td>
<td>Watch “This Emotional Life”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Monday July 4th</td>
<td>NO CLASS</td>
<td>NO CLASS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Monday July 11th</td>
<td>Adolescence – Social Emotional</td>
<td>Emerging Adulthood</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Wednesday July 13th</td>
<td>Quiz 3</td>
<td>Watch “Planet 12”</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Monday July 18th</td>
<td>Early Adulthood</td>
<td>Middle Adulthood</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Wednesday July 20th</td>
<td>Later Life</td>
<td>Watch “49 Up”</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Monday July 25th</td>
<td>Class Wrap Up/Review</td>
<td>Quiz 4</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Wednesday July 27th</td>
<td>Cumulative Make-Up Exam</td>
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*This Schedule is subject to change at the instructor’s digression.