**PSYC 313-002 – Child Development**

**Wednesday 7:20pm to 10:00pm**

**Krug Hall 5**

**Instructor Information**

Angela Zender

Email: azender@gmu.edu

Office: TBD

Office Hours: Wednesdays 6:00pm to 7:00pm *(please email me if you plan to come)*

**Course Description**

Childhood is a developmental period characterized by significant changes. This course examines the biological, psychological, and social changes of childhood and the consequences of these for youth’s normal (and abnormal) cognitive, behavioral, and emotional development.

This course is 3 credit hours.

**Required Text**

How Children Develop 5th Edition by Seigler, Saffran, Eisenberg, Deloache & Gershoff.

**Course Requirements**

**Review Questions (50 points total)**

Goal: For students to review and show their understanding of specific topics learned in class.

* Students will answer review questions about the assigned readings and topics discussed in class. Specific questions will be provided in a separate document with writing guidelines.

**Story Assignment (50 points total)**

Goal: To integrate the concepts learned in class to a real life situation.

* Students will complete two short papers relating childhood experiences to psychological theories covered in this class. More information will be provided in a separate, writing project guidelines document. Papers must be submitted as HARD COPY to class AND on Blackboard (to check for plagiarism). More details will be provided.
* Students will do a short presention on ONE of their reflection papers. The date of your presentation will be determined.

**Midterm Exam (75 points)**

Goal: For students to be tested on their understanding of the material learned in class.

* Cummulative for first half of semester.

**Final Exam (75 points)**

Goal: For students to be tested on their understanding of the material learned in class.

* Cummulative for second half of semester.

**Technology**

Students will be expected to access and use Blackboard on a regular basis. Important information, such as the syllabus, slides, articles, and assignments, will be posted and updated here. Grades will also be posted on Blackboard and you are expected to check your grades and let me know of any problems **before** the semester is over. To access Blackboard log in at: http://mymason.gmu.edu, click on the Courses tab and locate your course link in the Course List. In addition, students should check their GMU email account regularly.

**PowerPoint Slides**

Lecture material will come from the assigned textbook, additional readings and other sources. You are responsible for all material covered within and beyond the textbook.

**The Honor Code**

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. 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 the assignment to any student found guilty of an honor code violation.

**Students with Disabilities**

If you are a student with a documented disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 709-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

**Psychological Services**

Life is stressful and we all need a little support sometimes. Students are encouraged to contact Counseling & Psychological Services (caps.gmu.edu) for assistance with any kind of psychological/life problem or crisis situation. I can help with referrals for students with particular counseling needs.

**Official Communications via GMU E-mail**

Official Communications via GMU E-mail: Mason uses electronic mail to provide official information to students. Examples include communications from course instructors, notices from the library, notices about academic standing, financial aid information, class materials, assignments, questions, and instructor feedback. Students are responsible for the content of university communication sent to their Mason e-mail account and are required to activate that account and check it regularly.

**Add/Drop Deadlines**

Last Day to Add Classes: January 29, 2019

Final Drop Deadline (No Tuition Penalty): February 5, 2019

**Grade Breakdown**

Total Possible Points: 250

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Grade | Percent |
| A+ | 98+ |
| A | 93-97 |
| A- | 90-92 |
| B+ | 87-89 |
| B | 83-86 |
| B- | 80-82 |
| C+ | 77-79 |
| C | 73-76 |
| C- | 70-72 |
| D | 60-69 |
| F | <60 |

**Class Cancellations** – please check your email and the university website in case of an unexpected cancellation and for updates in the event of a university closing. Since this is an online course, we will most likely not be affected by university closure; however, if there is a known issue with Blackboard functionality when the university is closed and ITS staff are not working, I will adjust the schedule as needed.

**Course Schedule and Due Dates**

The schedule below is *tentative.* Dates/topics are subject to change. All modifications will be addressed with sufficient notice via email, and updates on Blackboard.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Topic** | **Assignment Due** |
| January 23 | Syllabus, Introductions  Ch 1: An Introduction to Child Development |  |
| January 30 | Ch 2: Prenatal Development and the Newborn Period  Ch 3: Biology and Behavior |  |
| February 6 | Ch 4: Theories of Cognitive Development  Ch 5: Seeing, Thinking, and Doing in Infancy |  |
| February 13 | Ch 6: Development of Language and Symbol Use | Review Questions 1 |
| February 20 | Ch 7: Conceptual Development  Ch 8: Intelligence and Academic Achievement |  |
| February 27 | Story Assignment Presentations  Review | Story Assignment 1 |
| March 6 | Midterm Exam |  |
| March 13 | **Spring Break – NO CLASS!** |  |
| March 20 | Ch 9: Theories of Social Development |  |
| March 27 | Ch 10: Emotional Development  Ch 11: Attachment to Others and Development of the Self |  |
| April 3 | Ch 12: The Family | Review Questions 2 |
| April 10 | Ch 13: Peer Relationships  Ch 14: Moral Development |  |
| April 17 | Story Assignment Presentations  Ch 15: Gender Development | Story Assignment 2 |
| April 24 | Review |  |
| May 1 | Final Exam |  |