PSYC 211 Developmental Psychology

Fall 2020

Section DL3

Instructor: Lucia Stillerova, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: by appointment

**Textbook:** Berger S.K. (2019). Invitation to the Lifespan. ISBN – 9781319140649

**Course Description**

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

**Class Format**

This class will be held entirely online. Information will be presented in PowerPoint lectures and assigned textbook readings. Students are responsible for understanding all of the information presented in both their textbook and PowerPoint lectures. For each of the chapters, students must complete discussion responses and other writing assignments. These discussion responses, assignments are designed to ensure that students both have an understanding of the core course content and apply them. These assignments will be due at specific dates throughout the semester (see Course Schedule at bottom of syllabus for a list of due dates).

This course will deliver content via PowerPoint slides. These slides will all be available on Blackboard, and will include key terminology, important concepts, and more detailed explanations of difficult topics. Students are responsible for understanding all of the information presented in these slides as well as the notes sections of these slides (below each slide). Students should use the textbook to supplement their knowledge and understanding of the information presented in these slides. If students are unsure about a specific concept, they should first consult their textbook for more information regarding this topic. If they are still unsure about a topic, they should email the instructor.

**Course Requirements and Assignments**

Exams 60 points

You have three exams worth 20 points each. These exams will primarily consist of multiple choice. *These exams will rely heavily on material covered in class.* *No make-up exams will be given*, except under extraordinary circumstances beyond the student's control. Exams are not cumulative! Exams will be an open note and will take place on Blackboard.

Discussion Posts – 15 points (5 posts, 3 points each)

Students must respond to a post on the Blackboard Discussion board that I post as the instructor. The post will be a question related to the chapter content, interesting article, or video/podcast related to class material. These posts will be a direct response to the overall question. There will be a total of 5 discussion posts and **you must respond to all 5 posts.** Each response will be graded out of 3 points for a total of 15 points during the semester. **Note:** You will be communicating with one another via the discussion board. It is likely that you will not always agree with the opinions of your fellow classmates. Disagreement is fine but you will need to respect others’ views. Thus, personal attacks and derogatory comments will not be tolerated.

Interview Project 25 points

You will complete a final project in which you must demonstrate your understanding of development by evaluating theoretical and empirical claims and relating them to information obtained through an interview. You may choose to interview anyone of any age.

You need to choose **two** aspects of development that interest you (e.g., identity, gender, parenting, marriage, aging, etc.) and think about how you might assess these aspects during an interview. Make sure to match the questions to a particular stage of development. For example, if you interview an adolescent, make sure the questions refer to adolescence (e.g., don’t ask about pretend play!).

Construct a list of at least 3 questions per area of interest (totaling at least 6 questions). These questions will focus on these aspects based on theories, research findings, and everyday examples we have discussed in the course. You will want to create your list prior to the interview. During the interview, you should make notes about what you discussed.

Following the interview, you will write a paper relating your findings to key ideas discussed in our course, noting how your findings are similar to or different from the theories, research findings, and everyday examples we discussed (focusing on the two constructs chosen). You should refer to information from the book, outside articles, and PowerPoint slides. This paper should be approximately 3-4 pages in length, 12 point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, with 1” margins.

Grading Scale

Grades will be calculated as follows: 100% > 93% = A, 90 – 92 = A-, 87 – 89 = B+, 83 – 86 = B, 80 – 82 = B-, 77 – 79 = C+, 73 – 76 = C, 70 – 72 = C-, 60 – 69 = D, < 60 = F

**Class Cancellation Policy:** In the event that class is cancelled, I will notify students via email with information about making up the missed class.

**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>). Students are encouraged to study together as much as possible throughout the course, however, no assistance, sharing of information, or discussion of exam items or answers between students may take place. For all work, the name that appears on the paper must be the author. 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 to any student found guilty of an honor code violation.

**Disability Help**: If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resources Center (DRC) at (703) 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

**Miscellaneous:**

Official Communications via GMU Email: 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 email account, and are required to activate that account and check it regularly. Recording of classroom lectures is not allowed without explicit permission by the instructor.

Students may not reproduce (including uploading to the Internet) any portion of the exam. Students who attempt to photograph or in any way capture information about the exam for others’ use will be reported for an honor violation.

Life is stressful and we all need a little support sometimes. Students are encouraged to contact Counseling & Psychological Services (3129 Student Union Building I, http://caps.gmu.edu/) at 993-2380 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.

**Course schedule**

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| Date | Chapter | What’s due? |
| **8/24 week 1** | Chapter 1 | Discussion post due on 8/30 at 11:59 pm |
|  |
| **8/31 week 2** | Chapter 2, Chapter 3 | Discussion post due on 9/06 at 11:59 pm |
| **9/7 week 3** | Chapter 4 | Discussion post due on 9/13 at 11:59 pm |
| **9/14 week 4** | Chapter 5 |  |
| **9/21 week 5** | EXAM 1 | Exam 1 (Chapters 1-5) |
| **9/28 week 6** | Chapter 6 | Discussion post due on 10/04 at 11:59 pm |
| **10/5 week 7** | Chapter 7 | Discussion post due on 10/11 at 11:59 pm |
| **10/12 week 8** | Chapter 8 Chapter 9 |  |
| **10/19 week 9** | Chapter 10 |  |
| **10/26 week 10** | EXAM 2 | Exam 2 (Chapters 6-10) |
| **11/2 week 11** | Chapter 11, Chapter 12 |  |
| **11/9 week 12** | Chapter 13 |  |
| **11/16 week 13** | Chapter 14, Chapter 15 | Interview Project Assignment Due 11/22 at 11:59pm |
| **11/23 week 14** | Thanksgiving Break | **No Assignments due** |
| **12/01 week 15** | EXAM 3 | **Exam 3 (Chapters 11-15)** |
| **12/09 week 16** | What ever is left |  |

**Note: This schedule is tentative and subject to change!**

**Add/Drop Deadlines**:

Last day to add: August 31st 2020

Last day to drop: September 15th 2020

Selective withdrawal period: September 16th to September 28th 2020