

PSYC 211-002-Developmental Psychology

Fall 2022

Instructor: Vera Hawa, MA

Email: vhawa@gmu.edu

Class Meetings: Mondays and Wednesdays 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM

Art and Design Building | Room 2026

Office Hours: Thursdays: 1:30pm-2:30pm at David King Hall #1026

Please email me in advance to set up a meeting (zoom or in person). Other days and times for appointments are welcome.

Course Description

This course provides an overview of normal human development across lifespan. We will explore major developmental theories and concepts related to physical, cognitive and socio-emotional development in different stages of life.

*This course meets the Mason Core requirement in the Social and Behavioral Sciences category.

Specific Learning Objectives

After successfully completing this course, students should be able to:

- ✚ Identify and discuss key developmental theories and concepts
- ✚ Identify and discuss the interplay between genetics and environment in development
- ✚ Apply psychological principles to personal growth and other aspects of everyday life
- ✚ Interpret research findings relevant to developmental psychology

Institutional Learning Objectives (Mason Core):

- ✚ Explain how individuals, groups or institutions are influenced by contextual factors;
- ✚ Demonstrate awareness of changes in social and cultural constructs;
- ✚ Use appropriate methods and resources to apply social and behavioral science concepts, terminology, principles and theories in the analysis of significant human issues, past or present.

Textbook and Readings

Textbook is recommended but not required! The slides (that will be posted on Blackboard before the beginning of each class) and your notes should be your best reference. Any additional readings or links will be posted on Blackboard when needed.


Recommended textbooks:

- *Berger K.S (2019). Invitation to the LifeSpan, 4th edition, Worth Publishers, MacMillan Learning*
- *Santrock J.W (2016). A topical approach to life-span development. 8th edition, McGraw-Hill Education*

* The quizzes and final exam will be based on the content that was discussed during the lectures. Although I try to make the slides as helpful and detailed as possible you will still need to attend class and take notes.


The methods utilized in the class will be varied. I will use lectures to present each topic but we will also have many articles, videos and classroom discussions. I would encourage you to use Blackboard to post any question or start a discussion in any of the topics taught in class. We might also have one or two guest speakers who have a unique perspective on some developmental milestone/theme.

Course Requirements and Assignments


 **Attendance (5%) and Participation (5%):** This course is offered in person. You are expected to be present for class meetings. Your thoughtful participation in class discussions and Blackboard is encouraged and important for your learning experience. Be an active learner!

I understand that not everyone is comfortable participating in class but there are different ways of active learning and participation. We will often have small group discussions and you can also participate in Blackboard. You can write a post with your thoughts or questions based on the day's lecture and other students can chime in anytime.

*You cannot receive all 5 points for attendance if you miss more than 5 classes (unjustified absenteeism). It will be a 4% or less.


 **Bi-Weekly quiz (30%):** Every other week you will have to take a quiz via Blackboard. Each quiz (multiple choice or short answer) will be based on the content covered in the two previous weeks.

- This is an opportunity to keep you on top of the material and evaluate your understanding and knowledge.
- 6 timed quizzes will be given throughout the semester. Each quiz is 5 points. Quizzes will be open on Blackboard every other Wednesday afternoon and they will be due on Monday by 9am /or Tuesday (if Monday is off). You have one extra opportunity to retake each quiz if you are not satisfied with your initial score.

 **Reflection Papers (17.5% each):** As of week 3 you can start writing your paper. Choose 2 topics of your interest to write 2 reflection papers. You will reflect on what you learned. This will help you further explore a topic and demonstrate critical thinking. You basically

conceptualize, apply, analyze, synthesize and evaluate the information you learned on the topic of your choice.

- Reflection papers must be **submitted via Blackboard within 10 days** of the class/topic you are reflecting on. Choose the topics (e.g. Language development) from the course content (see weekly schedule) and the developmental stage of your interest and write at least 1 page (single spaced) to describe what you learned about that topic using critical thinking. **DO NOT** just summarize information. Express your own thoughts and make connections with a theory learned (e.g. Piaget's, Vygotsky's, Bronfenbrenner's). Also discuss about genetic and/or environmental factors. For example, if you choose as a topic "language development", explain why inherited traits or experiences may have greater influence in language development. Rubric will be found on blackboard under assignments.

 **Final Exam (25%):** You will take a Final Exam based on the material covered throughout the semester. Final Exam will be in person on **December 7**. More details will be provided during the semester.

- This is a great opportunity for you to "show what you know" and celebrate all you've learned. It's a summative assessment, showing the "sum" of all of your learning!

Assignment	Points/ Percentage
Attendance	5
Participation	5
Quizzes	30
Reflection Paper 1	17.5
Reflection Paper 2	17.5
Final Exam	25
	100

Final grades will be calculated as follows:
> 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

Course Schedule

*Please note that the **scheduled topics and readings are subject to change.**

Week	Date	Topic	Notes or/ Assignments
1	Aug22	Introductions, Syllabus Review	Introduce yourself see Blackboard under Discussion Board-Introductions
	Aug24	The Science of Human Development	
2	Aug29	Nature Vs Nurture Ecological-Systems Approach	
	Aug31	Theories of Human Development	
3	Sep 5	No Class Labor Day : University Closed	Quiz1 due
	Sep7	From Prenatal Development and Care to Birth	
4	Sep12	Brain Development: Basics, Plasticity, Critical Periods Experiences and Brain	
	Sept14	Sensorimotor Development and Perception	
5	Sep19	The importance of play	
	Sep21	Social and Emotional Development	
6	Sep26	Temperament and Attachment Theory	Quiz 2 due
	Sep28	Aggression and Bullying	
7	Oct3	Family System, Parenting Styles and Practices	
	Oct5	Moral Development Empathy	

8	Oct10	Fall Break/No class	Quiz 3 due
	Oct12	Grit, Mindset and Resilience	
9	Oct17	Language Development	
	Oct19	Cognitive Development and skills	
10	Oct24	Self and Identity Adolescence and Identity	
	Oct26	Development in Adolescence Risky behaviors or Exploration?	
11	Oct31	Romantic Relationships Common Challenges in Adolescence	Quiz 4 Due
	Nov2	Gender Development	
12	Nov7	Personality Development and Change	
	Nov9	Erikson Stages of Adulthood Maslow Pyramid Early Adulthood: Intimacy vs Isolation	
13	Nov14	Early Adulthood in the modern world Other theories of adulthood	Quiz 5 Due
	Nov16	Middle Adulthood: Generativity Vs Stagnation Midlife Crisis? Empty nest or Boomerang Children?	
14	Nov21	Late Adulthood: Integrity Vs Despair Aging and Culture	Thanksgiving Recess: No Classes (University Closed Nov. 24-28)
	Nov 23	Understanding death throughout the lifespan	
15	Nov28	The importance of Sleep Successful Aging	Quiz 6 due Last week of classes
	Nov30	Highlights, Self-Reflections and Questions	Last class
	Dec 7	Wednesday Dec 7 - Final Exam	Examination Period Dec7-14

*Last day to add a class: 8/29/22

*Last day to drop with no tuition liability: 9/6/22

For **GMU important dates** check on https://registrar.gmu.edu/calendars/fall_2022/

Classroom and Institution Policies

Late work

You are expected to keep up with content and assignments/quizzes in the course. In case you have to submit your assignment late please send me an email explaining the reasons you need an extension. You only have 2 assignments (reflection papers) and you have 10 days to write each one after the topic is taught in class. Please try to keep up with deadlines!

Missed Quizzes: Quizzes will be open on Blackboard every other Wednesday. Make sure not to miss it. You can take each quiz at your convenience between Wednesday 6pm and Monday 10am. You can retake (one time each) a quiz if you are not satisfied with your initial score or if you missed it.

Communication

Students must use their Mason email account to receive important University information, including communications related to this class. I will not respond to messages sent from or send messages to a non-Mason email address. You can also use Blackboard to send an email to me or your classmates. Questions related to the class can also be posted on blackboard so that everybody can see and chime in.

Lectures slides, announcements, additional readings, quizzes, exam and grades will all be posted on Blackboard. Check blackboard frequently to find new material or to check for new announcements.

Academic Integrity

George Mason University has an Honor Code, which requires all member of the GMU community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all prohibited. It is every student's responsibility to familiarize themselves with the Honor Code. Any violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee. See <https://oai.gmu.edu/mason-honor-code/> for more information.

**Plagiarism* is the use of another person's work without acknowledgement or citation. This includes another person's labor, ideas, words, or assistance. All work for this class is expected to be the student's individual work. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in a failing zero grade for any course assignment. In some more serious cases, plagiarism can result in failing the entire course, academic probation, and even expulsion.

Technology / Devices

Activities and assignments in this course will regularly use the Blackboard learning system, available at <https://mymason.gmu.edu>. Students are required to have regular, reliable access to a computer with an updated operating system (recommended: Windows 10 or Mac OSX 10.13 or higher) and a stable broadband Internet connection (cable modem, DSL, satellite broadband, etc., with a consistent 1.5 Mbps [megabits per second] download speed or higher. You can check your speed settings using the speed test on this website.)

Cell phones and other communicative devices are not to be used during class. Please keep them stowed away and out of sight. Laptops or tablets may be permitted for the purpose of taking notes only. Please be respectful of your peers and your instructor and do not engage in activities (e.g., gaming, email, chat, etc) that are unrelated to class. Such disruptions show a lack of professionalism and *may affect your participation grade*.

Accommodations

Disability Services at George Mason University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. If you are seeking accommodations for this class, please visit <http://ds.gmu.edu/> for detailed information about the Disability Services registration process. Then discuss your approved accommodations with me. Disability Services is located in The Student Union Building I (SUB I). Email: ods@gmu.edu | Phone: (703) 993-2474.

Sexual Interpersonal Misconduct Policy

GMU is committed to provide an environment that is free from discrimination, sexual misconduct, bullying and other forms of interpersonal violence. Students who have been sexually harassed, assaulted, or subjected to sexual misconduct please see for support. See University policy 1202: Sexual and Misconduct. To report an incident go to: <https://diversity.gmu.edu/title-ix/sexual-or-interpersonal-misconduct-report-form>

Psychological Support

Dealing with mental health issues isn't a sign of weakness or failure; it's a sign that you're having a health crisis. Do not hesitate asking for help!

Counseling & Psychological Services: visit : <http://caps.gmu.edu/> or call : 703-993-2380

Student Support and Advocacy: visit: <https://ssac.gmu.edu/> or call: 703-993-3686

"Education is what survives when what has been learned has been forgotten." Skinner