Behavioral Disorders of Childhood (Psyc 414-001)
Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:00 pm to 4:15 pm.
Innovation Hall, Room 136

Instructor: Dr. Kim Dechman
Office location: Aquia 337
Office hours: Mondays, 2:00 - 3:00 pm, or by appointment
Phone: 703-993-5212, 571-225-2169
Email address: kdechman1@gmu.edu (this is the best way to reach me)

Overview: Behavioral Disorders of Childhood is an introduction to child psychopathology, with an emphasis on clinical characteristics, classification and diagnosis, epidemiology, etiology, theories, research methods, assessments and treatments. The course will emphasize the developmental context of various disorders, risk and resiliency factors and environmental and biological contributions.

Class organization: Class time will be spent in interactive discussion of the day’s topics, class activities and guest speakers. Supplemental readings will be distributed in class to accompany the textbook materials. Students are required to be prepared with questions and reactions to the assigned readings.

Grading procedures: Four non-cumulative exams will be given. At the end of the semester, I will drop your lowest of the exam scores. Your final grade will be based upon three exams and two research reports. Grades are calculated in the following manner:

Exam 1: 100 points
Exam 2 (midterm): 100 points
Exam 3: 100 points
Exam 4 (final): 100 points
Two research reports: 100 points (50 points each)

500 points minus one exam (100 points) = 400 points

Grading scale:

360-400 points = A’s
387-400 = A+
374-386 = A
360-373 = A-
320-359 points = B’s
347-359 = B+
333-346 = B
320-332 = B-
280-319 points = C’s
307-319 = C+
293-306 = C
280-292 = C-
240-279 points = D’s
239 points and below = F’s

Make-up exams are not an option. If you miss an exam, a score of zero (0) will be recorded and this will be the exam score that is dropped at the end of the semester. If you wish to review your test and gain assistance in improving your exam scores, contact me to set up an appointment or see me during my office hours. I only review exams on an individual basis, not during class time.
Class attendance: Since any discussion or activity occurring in class may be included on an exam, attendance and participation are extremely important.


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 communications sent to their mason e-mail account, and are required to activate that account and check it regularly.

Additionally: (1) Your adherence to the GMU Honor Policy is expected at all times. (2) 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. (3) If during the semester issues arise which interfere with your ability to complete the course work, please let me know immediately, and (4) I encourage you to give me feedback regarding the course, the assignments, and my teaching style.

Tentative Lecture Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topics/Reading Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Overview of the course/Chapter 1: Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Chapter 1: Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>No class. Labor Day</strong> (Note: Sept. 4 is the last day to add)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Chapter 2: Models of Child Development, Psychopathology and Treatment</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Chapter 2: Models of Child Development, Psychopathology and Treatment</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Chapter 3: Principles and Practices of Developmental Psychopathology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td><strong>Exam 1 (Chapters 1, 2, and 3 plus any additional readings/topics)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Chapter 4: Classification, Assessment and Diagnosis, and Intervention</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Chapter 5: Disorders of Early Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Chapter 6: Disorders of Attachment (<strong>First research report due in class</strong>)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Note: September 28th is the last day to drop)</td>
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Chapter 6: Disorders of Attachment</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Chapter 7: Mental Retardation</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td><strong>Columbus Day. Monday class meets on Tuesday the 9th.</strong></td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Chapter 7: Mental Retardation</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td><strong>Exam 2: (Chapters 4, 5, 6 and 7 plus any additional readings/topics)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Chapter 8: Autism Spectrum Disorders</td>
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<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Chapter 9: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Chapter 9: ADHD (<strong>Second research report due in class</strong>)</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Chapter 10: Oppositional Defiant Disorder</td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Chapter 11: Anxiety Disorders</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
November
5 Chapter 11: Anxiety Disorders
7 Exam 3 (Chapters 8, 9, 10 and 11 plus any additional readings/topics)
12 Chapter 12: Mood Disorders and Suicidality
14 Chapter 12: Mood Disorders and Suicidality
19 Chapter 13: Conduct Disorders in Adolescence
21-25 Thanksgiving
26 Chapter 13: Conduct Disorders in Adolescence
28 Chapter 14: Substance Abuse Disorders in Adolescence

December
3 Chapter 14: Substance Abuse Disorders in Adolescence
5 Chapter 15: Eating Disorders. Last day of this class. All extra credit is due.
17 Final Exam, 1:30 to 4:15 pm (Chapters 12, 13, 14 and 15 plus any additional
   topics/readings)

Details of Exams, Research Reports and Extra Credit

Exams: worth up to 100 points each.

There will be four, non-cumulative exams given during the semester. Each exam will consist of multiple choice
and short essay questions. You will have the entire class time to complete the exam. See the lecture schedule
for specific exam dates. If classes are cancelled on a test day for any reason, the exam will be given on the first
day classes resume.

Research reports: worth up to 50 points each.

Each student will write and turn in two research reports. The first is due in class on September 26. The second
is due in class on October 24. Papers should be typed, double-spaced and up to five pages in length.

I will provide you with two research articles during the semester. For each article, answer the following
questions:

1. List the hypotheses.
2. How will this research fill gaps in our current knowledge/understanding of the disorder?
3. Is there a theoretical framework used? If so, describe it.
4. What are the research methods used? Can you think of other research methods that could be employed
to investigate this topic? Describe.
5. How do the authors interpret their results? Can you think of other ways the results could be interpreted?
   Describe.
6. Describe the limitations of the research as you see them.
7. Given the findings, what would be a good direction for future research on this subject to take?
**Extra credit: worth up to 20 points total.**

The two options described below are ways in which you may accumulate extra credit in this course. You may earn up to **20 points total** (5% of your overall course grade) by utilizing these extra credit opportunities. You may do one or both of these options.

1. **Analysis Paper:** worth up to 10 points. For any of the behavior disorders covered in this course, write a 3-page, typed and double-spaced, review of any book, movie, story or documentary depicting disorders of childhood. The review should include a complete citation (name, date, source, etc.) and should discuss the depiction of the disorder relative to the information you have learned from the textbook and lectures. For example, you might note that several of the characteristics presented in a movie are not typical characteristics of childhood schizophrenia. **Due in class no later than Wednesday, December 5.**

2. **Research Participation:** Five (5) points of extra credit will be given per each hour of research participation. Student research participation is coordinated through the GMU Psychology Research Participation website at [http://gmu.sona-systems.com/](http://gmu.sona-systems.com/). Each semester, students will need to register with the website in order to receive a login and password to access the website’s contents. Students will be able to schedule appointments for research experiments through the website. The website also records students’ participation credits, which may be applied towards students’ course grades.

   Note: It is important for students to check the research participation website regularly, beginning early in the semester, because most experiments and lectures are conducted for only part of the semester. Students are strongly encouraged NOT to wait until the end of the semester, as research opportunities may not be available at that time.

   Research participation credit will be awarded by the individual researchers after students complete their appointments. The research credits will usually be posted on the research participation website within 1 week after a completed appointment. If credit is not awarded, students should contact the researcher or lecturer directly about the credit(s). If the matter is not resolved after contacting the researcher or lecturer, the student should then contact the Research Coordinator at psychlab@gmu.edu. Research participation credit will be awarded only for participation by the student herself/himself. Volunteering and participation of family members or others without direct involvement of the student is not appropriate for course credit.

   After the researcher/experimenter credits your account, you must login again and assign that credit to the appropriate course (in this case, Psyc 414-001). Please turn in the participation form (if you receive one) or online experiment participation does not receive a form) to me indicating that you participated in an experiment. **Experiment participation must be completed and credit/s assigned to this class by Wednesday, December 5.**