

William Paterson University – Department of Psychology
Developmental Psychology 2100-80 Winter 2011-2012

Online Course Syllabus

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When contacting me, **only use** your wpunj.edu email address. And in the subject lines, **always include “2100-80”** so I know the email pertains to this course. I **will not reply to non-WPU** email addresses.

Required Text:

Berger, K. S. (2010). *Invitation to the life span*. Worth Publishers: NY.

ISBN: 978-07167-5466-4 or 0-7167-5466-5

Course Objectives

Developmental psychology is critical to understanding humans, including ourselves, across the lifespan. The primary goals of this course include:

- Obtaining a comprehensive understanding of developmental psychology from preconception to the end of life
- Recognizing the many influences (cultural, environmental, biological, etc.) on human development and their potential consequences
- Understanding the methods used to research development
- Understanding the role of developmental psychology within a clinical context
- Recognize and define developmentally appropriate practice and its application to situations such as child care, education, the workplace, government policy, etc.
- Identify important markers of development and recognize what constitutes a developmental delay or other disability

Course Format:

The course will use the text, demonstrations, assignments, discussions, and exams in order to achieve the course objectives. A weekly folder will be posted under Course Documents in Blackboard. At the beginning of each week, simply open the folder for that week's information. Make sure that you refer to the syllabus and the weekly folders on a consistent basis to ensure that you are completing all of your assignments on time. On the blackboard Discussion Board, there is an ongoing Forum for questions. For questions regarding the class, please post your questions on here so that everyone can benefit from the response. Feel free to respond to each other's postings. If you have a specific concern or other issues that you do not feel comfortable posting on the board, then please send me an email.

Course Expectations:

- Participate consistently
- Complete ALL assignments and exams on-time; Late assignments will **not be accepted** and there **are NO MAKE UPS**
- Ask questions if something is unclear
- Communicate in a respectful manner
- DO NOT use “chat” style communication when posting questions, discussion input, or sending emails. This is a college course. As such, it is expected that you exhibit appropriate grammar and effective communication styles. Remember that in an online course, the words you type are equated with the words you speak. Abbreviations, improper grammar and punctuation, etc. are not acceptable and will negatively affect your grade.

Support Services:

There are many support services available to you. If you have any problems, questions, or concerns about this class, please do not hesitate to contact me. A few other tips...

- Exchange contact information with fellow classmates for study groups
- Use the library and its resources
- Use the Writing Center if applicable

Academic Honesty

Please review and understand the William Paterson University’s Integrity Policy. Violations of academic integrity, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and lying will not be tolerated. There will be serious repercussions in the course (including failure of the course) and possibly from the University. If you have any questions about this, please contact me. While this is an online course, the SAME academic integrity rules apply.

Evaluation

NOTE: All assignments must be completed in their assigned time period online. If they are not completed on time, then you will receive a 0 for that particular assignment. Since this is an online course, you are completely reliant on your computer. Please DO NOT WAIT until the last minute to complete an assignment. This leaves you with no flexibility in case you encounter a problem. ALL assignments must be completed independently (i.e., no group/partner work).

Important Note: This course will utilize Blackboard (Bb) and it will be necessary for all students to access this application for assignments, course materials, and exams.

Dates	Chapter/Topic	Assignment(s) Due
(Tue, Wed, Thurs.) Dec. 27 th , 28 th , & 29 th	The Beginning Ch.1 and 2	Read full course syllabus Ch.1 quiz DUE (2 attempts) Bb Discussion for Ch. 2
(Fri, Sat, Sun) Dec. 30 th , 31 st , Jan. 1 st	The First Two Years Ch. 3 and 4	Ch. 3 quiz DUE Exam 1 (Ch. 1, 2, 3, & 4)
(Mon, Tues, Wed.) Jan. 2 nd , 3 rd , & 4 th	Early Childhood Ch.5 and 6	Ch. 5 quiz DUE Bb Discussion for Ch. 6
(Thurs, Fri, Sat.) Jan. 5 th , 6 th , & 7 th	Middle Childhood Ch.7 and 8	Ch. 7 quiz DUE Exam 2 (Ch. 5, 6, 7 & 8)
(Sun, Mon)**2 days Jan. 8 th , & 9 th	Adolescence Ch.9 and 10	Ch. 9 quiz DUE Ch. 10 quiz DUE <i>(No Exam these 2 chapters)</i>
(Tues, Wed, Thurs.) Jan. 10 th , 11 th , & 12 th	Adulthood Ch. 11,12, and 13	Ch. 11 quiz DUE Bb Discuss. for Ch. 12 & 13
(Fri, Sat, Sun.) Jan 13 th , 14 th , & 15 th .	Late Adulthood Ch. 14 and 15	Ch. 14 quiz DUE Exam 3 Ch.11,12, 13, 14, 15

** I suggest you save this syllabus (or the schedule above) to your desktop for the 3 weeks of the course. You should be accessing it every day to ensure you are on schedule.

Grading and other methods for assessing student academic performance:

NOTE: You have assignments **due EVERY 2-3 days** (Quiz, Bb discussion assignment and/or exam). The dates presented above are suggested for the readings but of course you can budget and use your time as needed (i.e., **read ahead of the course**). However, the graded assignments will be due on the last date listed on the schedule above. (e.g., the quiz and Bb discussion for chapters 1 & 2 closes on 12/29).

1. **Chapter Quizzes:** There will be (8) Chapter quizzes on Blackboard worth 20% of your final grade. Quiz questions will come directly from your text. Quiz format will be multiple choice. Timers will be set for **10 minutes to complete the quizzes**. These are not designed to be open book. You should read and prepare prior to taking the quizzes.

IMPORTANT: At 11:59pm on the day these are due (the last day or date on the syllabus for the chapters), **these quizzes will close**. I will set timers on these and you will have no access to them after the designated time. If you miss the deadline, there is **no chance** make these up.

2. **Blackboard Discussion:** According to dates on the syllabus, access the Bb discussion board. Make sure you know how to do this! You can even practice before the assignments start. There will be (3) Bb Discussions worth 20% of your final grade. These are key in both participating and earning your grade for the course. If **your name appears** on the discussion board thread, it means you have posted successfully. Please do not email your posts to me, since you will not get credit for these.

IMPORTANT: At 11:59pm on the day these are due, **these boards will close**. Students may choose to post after the deadline, but will not get credit after the deadline. The idea is for you to keep up with chapter materials, and connect with other students in the course to post, read, and respond to other posts. If you miss the deadline, there is **no chance** make these up. Posting at the last minute does not provide your classmates a chance to respond your post. You can post anytime you have completed reading the chapters. Do not wait until the deadline.

- a. Click on “+ thread” to start your posting. This should include a short paragraph (4-5) sentences minimum related to the **RELEVANT CHAPTER**. Examples may include: (a) What is your reaction to a specific chapter concept? (b) What parts of the chapter do you agree or disagree with and why? (c) What personal examples can you share from your own life experience? (d) How might the content or concepts apply to your future plans, direction, family, work etc..? **DO NOT summarize or repeat chapter content**. This is a chance for you to apply the materials.
- b. Access another (1) student’s posting and reply to their comment. This should be no less than 2-3 complete sentences.

Bb Discussion grading:

2 points: Complete comments and explanations in an organized manner using complete sentences. Postings were directly related to chapter content or concepts. Able to respond to other student's posts and comments. Complied with all Bb discussion requirements.

1 point: Comments and responses were acceptable, writing was disorganized or incomplete. Postings were somewhat related to chapter content or concepts. Did not attempt to discuss or reply to other student posts. Did not comply with Bb discussion requirements.

0 points: Comments and replies limited or non-existent. Postings were not related to chapter content or concepts. Student did not access the Bb discussion forums.

3. **Exams:** These 3 exams will only cover the chapters indicated on the course syllabus (i.e., there is no comprehensive exam). Exams are based solely on content from your text. Test format may include multiple choice, and true/false questions. These will count for 55% of your final grade for this course. Timers will be set for 75 minutes to complete the exams. Once the exam has been closed, ***THERE ARE NO MAKE-UP EXAMS.*** It is imperative that you complete your exam on time; otherwise you will receive a "0" for that exam.

IMPORTANT: As stated numerous times above, I will not offer make up exams or quizzes in this class. Instead, at the end of the course I will drop your lowest quiz grade. Read directions VERY carefully when accessing quizzes and exams, so you do not lose points or have exams close due to computer/technological mistakes.

Grading Rubric

Read syllabus	5%
Chapter Quizzes:	20%
Blackboard Discussions	20%
<u>Exams</u>	<u>55%</u>
Total	100%

A = 93-100 A- = 90-92
 B+ = 87-89 B = 83-86 B- = 80-82
 C+ = 77-79 C = 73-76 C- = 70-72
 D+ = 67-69 D = 60-66
 F = 59 or below

Integrity Policy: "Plagiarism (whether intentional or not) is not acceptable" You are responsible for knowing the *University Integrity Policy*. Please read the Student Handbook. Whenever you use another's idea whether verbatim or by rearranging the words, you must give credit to the original source. You may be required to include or later submit a copy of pages you referenced.

Special Needs: Any student requiring special accommodations for successful completion of this course should consult with the instructor regarding this issue early on in the course (i.e., **prior to exams and assignments**). Also, students should register with disability services if applicable.

Note: The instructor of this course reserves the right to alter or make changes to this syllabus as needed.

Suggestions (checklist) for navigating this course. At the start (or finish) of each chapter:

It is strongly recommended that you access Bb directly (e.g., <https://bb.wpunj.edu/webapps/login/>) as opposed to going through WP connect. If your university account logs you off, you can be disconnected from quizzes and exams.

1. Log into BlackBoard (Bb) and check to see if there are any announcements for the chapter or course.
2. On the same Bb page, click on *Chapter Materials > student resources* and read the introduction to the chapter. This will reveal some of the key focal points for reading as well as quizzes and exams.
3. Read the chapter:

This may seem like I am stating the obvious. But the key to this course (not unlike my traditional in-class, face to face Psychology class) is to read, understand, comprehend, and be able to recall the key concepts from each chapter. In the past, students who were able to achieve this earned their good grades.

Reading and absorbing really depends on your personal style. One suggestion for success would be to skim the entire chapter to get a preview for what is to come. You can even look at the chapter preview and key concepts prior to reading. The text lays all this out for you in a very readable and clear way. Then go back and read the sections. I like the idea of highlighting and outlining along the way. The text offers practice quizzes with answers as well. And you can always read ahead to stay on top of the material and prepare for the following assignment(s).

4. Access the PowerPoint slides:

You can view these before and/or after reading, that is up to you. But the slides present some of the key material from each chapter in a different format, outlined, and visually. I will choose and post the slides which correspond with the key concepts I want to teach, as well as material for the quizzes and exams.

5. Access study materials. On the Bb page, under *Chapter Materials*, you will find some student resources for learning. Some examples include flashcards with definitions, media files (you may need to download realplayer), crossword puzzles, and sample quizzes. Use

these for review, practice, and preparation for the quizzes and exams. If you are able to complete these, I predict you will score higher on the tests.

6. Use the materials in the back of the chapter. Review the terms, and answer the questions.
7. By the end of each week they are due, access the Discussion Board link on the Bb and follow the posting instructions. Remember, one posting and reply to another student's posting is required for the full credit. The board will close at the end of each week.
8. Keep up with the chapter schedule and take the exams: I will post a new link or button to these on Bb. More details to follow.

Once you have completed reading this syllabus, please email me at vandergastt@wpunj.edu . Use a subject of "read syllabus" or type it in the text box and you will get credit for the first assignment (5 pts toward) your grade for the course. Use psy2100-80 in the subject line. This will also indicate that you have read, understood, and agreed to the syllabus as a contract for this course.