

Psychology 205 - Human Development, Fall 2004

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Office Hours: 2-3pm M-W-F, and by appointment

Texts: Human Development (9th ed.). Papalia, D.E. & Olds, S.W. and Feldman, R.D.

About this class: The Psychology of Human Development introduces the student to the field of Developmental Psychology. The major focus will be on those theories and principles necessary to an understanding of the process of growth from conception to old age. The format of the class will include lecture, class discussion, and a theory/practice-service/learning format.

Our class will operate on the assumption that the teacher-student relationship is a partnership whereby we learn from one another and move together as in a dance. Therefore, each of us will actively participate in and assume responsibility for the class.

Therefore, there are two distinctive features to this class:

In-class dialogue and discussion will be a significant component. While I will lecture on a regular basis, I will also expect you to take some leadership and ownership of the class. This will ***not*** be a class where you can sit quietly, take notes, and then leave!

The most distinctive feature of the class is the Theory/Practice-Service Learning (TPSL) format. A TPSL component can deepen our understanding of the subject we are studying and develop our ability to reflect on, “practice,” and apply to a real life situation what we are learning in the classroom. I believe that knowing facts, reciting theories and concepts, and regurgitating back on an exam what you have memorized is not necessarily reflective of a “deep” understanding of the material nor does it prepare you for real life experiences. Therefore, you will be expected to ***reflect on what you are learning*** by working in a social service agency in the greater surrounding community ***at least*** two hours a week. I will provide you with a list of possible placements and times, and you then may select the placement based on your personal preferences and schedules. Detailed information will be given in class about this component of the class.

Course Goals: Each of us in this class should expect the following:

1. To participate actively in class discussions and in Learn Link conversations on a regular basis and in a thoughtful manner. This means that each of us should be able to frame our conversations around the readings of the day and the theory presented and to listen respectfully and carefully to one another.

2. To connect the theory of the texts and lectures to the daily lives of human beings from infancy to old age. Our community placements will be one important venue for doing this.
3. To understand clearly the ways in which cognitive, physical, and psychosocial development are interconnected and define growth and human experiences.
4. To see the specific ways in which class, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and age intersect to influence growth and development.
5. To grow in heart and mind. This means that we will make a conscious attempt to develop a tolerance and appreciation of others' ideas and convictions, particularly those views that are different from our own.
6. To enjoy this moment in time in our own journey of learning!

Requirements of the Course:

Class attendance, participation in discussions, and Learn Link entries (10%): Since your individual voice is considered very significant to the integrity of the course, you should attend every class and actively participate in discussion. Each student will make *at least* 10 Learn Link entries during the course of the semester. Each entry should be a response or personal reaction to a concept presented in the lecture/text, in a film, by another student, or in the assigned readings and should be approximately 3-4 sentences in length. It is hoped that these entries will serve as a type of conversation among students in the class. I expect you to respond thoughtfully and respectfully to one another on this conference and to evidence careful reflection as opposed to an "off the cuff" reaction. I am interested in whether you are able to incorporate ideas from the class and then articulate them.

2. **Political Position Presentation (20%)** – Since this year is an election year, we will look carefully at the politics and political platforms of George Bush and John Kerry as they impact the welfare of children and adults. In groups of 2-3 you will be given an issue to investigate in terms of Bush's and Kerry's position on this issue, present these findings to the class, and discuss the political position you have assumed after this investigation. You will also submit a bibliography reflecting your sources for your investigation. (Detailed information will be given in class.)

Radio Diaries (20%) –In groups of 2-3 students you will listen to and analyze the diaries of individuals as heard via National Public Radio’s Diaries Web site. Some of you will analyze the teenage diaries, some of you will analyze the prison diaries, and some of you will analyze the retirement home diaries. You will apply developmental theories and concepts to these case studies and present your analysis to the class using power point or any other technology you feel best reflects your work. (Detailed information will be given in class)

TPSL Reflection Paper and Community Placement (20%): You will construct an 8-10 page paper that demonstrates how your community experience is related to, clarifies, or reflects what you have learned in this class. For example, if you are working with an individual associated with the Literacy Advocacy program, you might want to consider how your interaction with one or more of these individuals validates or raises questions about what you have learned regarding language development. (Detailed information about the construction of the final paper will be discussed in class). You are also asked to construct an abstract of your TPSL paper that you will post to our Learn Link conference for all of the members of the class to enjoy and learn from. In many ways this final assignment serves as a type of “final examination” in that you are required to synthesize what you have learned in this class and reflect this understanding in this paper.

Each of you will have an on-site supervisor to whom you will report each week. We will maintain regular contact with this supervisor so as to be certain that this experience is working well for you and the respective agency. The supervisor will evaluate your work at the end of the semester and communicate those results to me. However, this supervisor will **not** assign a grade. Periodically during the course of the semester we will have in-class discussions regarding experiences with these placements. You will be expected to talk about your placement in terms of concepts learned in class.

Quizzes 1, 2, & 3 (10% each): Three short answer quizzes will be given during the semester.

The plus-minus system will be utilized in the calculation of final grades.

The Student Honor Code of Oxford College applies to every member of the class. Please review this Code carefully giving special attention to plagiarism. Remember that plagiarism occurs when one uses the words of another person with out quotations and without adequate referencing. PLEASE NOTE ALSO THAT THE USE OF FORMER STUDENTS' PAPERS MAY NOT BE USED IN ANY FORM; TO DO SO IS TO VIOLATE THE HONOR CODE!! Should you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please consult with me. This professor will not tolerate violations of this code under any circumstances!!

Course Schedule:

8/25	Introduction to course
8/27, 8/30	Issues in the study of Human Development (Ch. 1)
*9/1	No Class!
*9/3	Discussion of Community Placements
*9/6	No Class – Labor Day Holiday
9/8, 9/10, 9/13	Developmental Theories (Ch.2)
9/15	Prenatal Development (Ch. 3)
9/17	Birth (Ch. 4)
*9/20	Quiz 1
9/22, 9/24	Infancy (Chs. 5 & 6)
9/27, 9/29	Toddlerhood (Chs. 5 & 6)
*10/1	TPSL Discussion
10/4/, 10/6	Early Childhood (Chs.6, 7, & 8)
*10/8	No Class!
*10/11-10/12	Midsemester Break

10/13	Early Childhood (continued)
10/15, 10/18	Middle Childhood (Chs. 9 & 10)
10/20	TPSL Discussion
*10/22	No Class
*10/25, 10/27, 10/29	Political Position Presentations
*11/1	Quiz 2
11/3, 11/5	Adolescence (Chs. 11 & 12)
*11/8, 11/10	Teenage Diaries Presentations
*11/12, 11/15	Prison Diaries Presentations
11/17, 11/19	Early and Middle Adulthood (Ch. 12-16)
*11/22	Quiz 3
*11/24-11/26	Thanksgiving Break
11/29	Late Adulthood (Chs. 17, 18, 19)
*12/1, 12/3	Retirement Home Diaries
*12/6	TPSL Reflection Paper Due and Discussion

