**Lifespan Developmental Psychology**

**PSYS 321: Section 002**

**T/Th 12:30-1:45 pm 039 North Quad**

**Spring Term 2017**

**Instructor:** Katie Lawson, Ph.D **Email:** kmlawson4@bsu.edu **Phone:** 765.285.1706

**Office:** 113 North Quad **Office Hours:** Tuesday 11:15-12:15, Wednesday 10:45-11:25, and by appointment

**Required Text**:Santrock, J. W. (2015). *Life-span development* (15th ed.). New York: McGraw Hill.

**Prerequisites**: PSYS 100

**Course Description:** The purpose of this course is to provide a broad overview of individual development, from prenatal development to death. We will cover major developmental theories, research methods, and research findings related to human development across the lifespan. Topics will focus on changes in physical, cognitive, and socioemotional development, with an emphasis on the multiple contexts in which development occurs.

**Course Objectives:** By the end of this course, students will be able to:

* Describe key changes in the physical, cognitive, and socioemotional domains at each developmental stage in the lifespan (i.e., prenatal, infancy, childhood, adolescence, middle adulthood, late adulthood)
* Describe how development occurs within the context of different environments
* Apply developmental concepts and theories to their understanding of their own and others’ development
* Understand the use of the scientific method in evaluating human development research
* Compare their own ideas about human development and relationships to empirically based research

**Class Mechanics:**

Incomplete PowerPoint slides will be provided online prior to class. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to acquire the course notes from a classmate. I do not give out completed course notes. If you have specific questions about the class notes you have obtained, I will be more than happy to go over that material with you.

Lectures cannot cover every topic contained in the assigned readings. Therefore, some of the material you read in the text will not be discussed in class. This does not mean that the material is unimportant-only that there is not enough time to cover it in class. Also, there will sometimes be things covered in lecture that are not in the text. *You should pay attention to both the text material and the lecture material in your studying. All information is fair game for exams!*

Cellular Phone Policy –Your cell phone should be stored away during class. Once class begins, I do not want to see or hear cell phones.

Laptop Policy – Laptops are allowed in class. If you are caught using your laptop for non-academic purposes, your laptop privileges will be taken away.

**Course Evaluation:**

**1. Exams.** The exams will consist of multiple-choice and short answer questions based on the material in the textbook and the class lectures. There will be a total of four exams in the class. The first three exams will be administered via Blackboard in the computer-based testing labs. Information about lab locations, hours, and procedures is located at: http://cms.bsu.edu/about/administrativeoffices/labs/computerbasedtesting. Because you will be given 4 days to complete the exam, no make-up exams will be allowed. The fourth exam will be administered on the final exam day (in class).

**2. Quizzes.** A total of 9 announced quizzes will be given throughout the semester (each worth 5 points). The quizzes will cover relevant material outside of the textbook – newspaper articles, podcasts, and other videos. These will be used to stimulate class discussion on topics related to development. In order to make-up an in-class quiz, you must contact me prior to missing class, provide me with documentation for the absence, I must deem it an excused absence (e.g., sleeping through class is not an excused absence), and you must complete an additional reflection paper (in addition to the missed quiz) to be completed in the time frame we discuss when you first provide me with documentation. Part of the learning experiences from the quizzes stem from the discussions that occurs in class. The additional reflection paper is designed to make sure that you are not missing out on a learning experience due to being absent.

**3. Writing Assignments.** A total of 4 assignments will be due throughout the course of the semester. You are required to complete 3 out of the 4 assignments (submitted via blackboard). *In order to receive credit, you must be present at the beginning of class on the due date.* If you are worried about losing points, please monitor your absences and save them for the kinds of serious situations, such as illness, that require you to be absent. The assignments are listed below. Each assignment is worth 25 points.

 Completed?

1. Childhood Obesity

 2. Teenage Pregnancy Prevention

 3. Midlife Crisis

 4. Write Your Own Obituary

It is your responsibility to keep track of your assignment completion – I recommend using the checklist above. If you complete more than the required amount of assignments (3 out of 4), the lowest score will be dropped. No late assignments are accepted.

**4. Make-a-Toy Group Project Presentation.** Working in groups of 3-5 people, you will develop a toy that is physically, cognitively, and socioemotionally appropriate for a selected age group (infant, early childhood, middle childhood, late childhood, adolescence, emerging adulthood, young adulthood, middle adulthood, late adulthood). You will present your project to the class as a group. Further details/instructions will be given later in the class.

**5. Participation Points.** Class participation is necessary in order to get the most out of this course. Because of this, a total of 25 participation points will be counted towards your final grade. The points will be based on whether or not you are contributing during class discussions. The following general rubric will be used to assess contributions during class:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Description of Contributions in Class | Points Received |
| Consistently is engaged in class material, contributes meaningful comments/observations/questions, and is prepared for class | 25/25 |
| Is sometimes engaged in class material, makes some meaningful comments/observations/questions, and is sometimes prepared for class | 12.5/25 |
| Consistently is NOT engaged in class material, rarely contributes meaningful comments/observations/questions, and is not prepared for class | 0/25 |

In addition, if you don’t attend class, it will negatively impact your grade. At the beginning of every class, i-clickers will be used to assess attendance. There is no need to show me excused absence slips if you did not miss a quiz. If you miss 0-2 days, you will not lose points. This is to account for excused absences, including sicknesses and conference travel. For every day you miss over 2 days, you will be docked 3 points from your participation score. If you plan to miss more than 2 class days – excused or unexcused – you should consider taking the course at a different time when you are less busy.

At the start of class, I will close the door. If you enter the classroom after the door is closed (whether it be 5 seconds after or 5 minutes later), you are late. **Coming to class late two times will count as one missed day of class.** Therefore, if you come late to class four times, it will count as 2 missed days of class, and so on.

**Make-Up Policy:**

No make-up exams will be allowed. Unless otherwise specified above, students will receive a 10% reduction on the assignment for each day it is late, for up to 5 days (counting weekends).

**Grade Breakdown:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Component** | **Date** | **Points** | **Points Earned** |
| **Exam 1** | **2/7-2/10** | **70** |  |
| **Exam 2** | **3/13-3/16** | **70** |  |
| **Exam 3** | **4/5-4/10** | **70** |  |
| **Final Exam** | **Tuesday 5/2 @ 12:00-2:00** | **70** |  |
| **Quizzes** | **Throughout the Semester** | **45** |  |
| **Writing Assignments** | **Throughout Semester** | **75** |  |
| **Make-a-Toy Group Project Proposal** | **3/2** | **15** |  |
| **Make-a-Toy Group Project Presentation** | **4/25 & 4/237** | **100** |  |
| **Participation** | **Throughout the Semester** | **25** |  |
| **Total** |  | **540** |  |

**The final grade will be determined as follows:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Letter Grade** | **%** |
| A | 94-100 |
| A- | 90-93 |
| B+ | 87-89 |
| B | 84-86 |
| B- | 80-83 |
| C+ | 77-79 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Letter Grade** | **%** |
| C | 74-76 |
| C- | 70-73 |
| D+ | 67-69 |
| D | 64-66 |
| D- | 60-63 |
| F | 0-59 |

**Student Responsibilities:**

Students are responsible for attending all classes, taking notes, taking exams, monitoring their grades, and *completing all readings and assignments prior to their due dates*. Students are also responsible for actively engaging in class material during class lectures and for expressing their ideas and opinions in a respectful manner. Students will observe the following basic rules of etiquette: arriving to class on time, storing away cell phones, avoiding use of the internet during class, and discontinuing conversations not relevant to class.

**Statement of Academic Honesty**: Ball State University has a specific policy regarding academic dishonesty in Section VIII.B of the code of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Cheating and plagiarism result in a minimum penalty of an F for the assignment with the possibility of failure of the course and suspension and or/dismissal from the university. For information about the University’s policy on cheating, see the Student Code of Rights and Responsibilities at <http://www.bsu.edu/sa/srcs/studentcode/> .

**Extra Assistance**: If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please contact me as soon as possible. Ball State's Disability Services office coordinates services for students with disabilities; documentation of a disability needs to be on file in that office before any accommodations can be provided. Disability Services can be contacted at 765-285-5293 or dsd@bsu.edu.

**Learning Center:** The Learning Center offers free tutoring for many courses on campus, help with any writing task, and study strategies such as time management, test taking, note taking, and effective textbook reading. Call 765-285-1006 or visit NQ 350 to make an appointment to meet with a tutor.

**Artifact Collection*:*** From time to time, I may make copies of the work you do for this class (e.g., written assignments, exams) for department assessment purposes. I will remove all identifying information on these assignments before making your work available. Unless you decline in writing, I will assume that you are allowing me permission to keep copies of your work for this class. See me if you have questions.

**Lecture and Reading Outline:**

This outline can only be an approximate guide. Dates for particular lecture topics are approximate and material may be added or deleted. The dates and material for the exams will be as listed, unless changes are absolutely necessary. If changes affecting exams are made, they will be announced in class as soon as possible.





Final Exam: Tuesday 5/2 @ 12:00-2:00 (in class)