

PSYC 240: DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

Whitman College

Fall 2009: Tuesday & Thursday, 1-2:30pm

Room: Maxey 303

Professor: Melissa Clearfield

e-mail: clearfmw

office hours: Monday 11-11:50, Thursday 2:30-4 or by appointment

office phone: 4427

office: Maxey 320

Texts:

Siegler, R., DeLoache, J. & Eisenberg, N. (2006). *How Children Develop, Second Edition*. New York: Worth Publishers.

Additional articles will be available on our CLEo site.

Course goals:

1. To acquire knowledge about human development
 - A. To understand the guiding principles of human development
 - B. To induce these principles from examples and research
2. To understand research methods and to interpret research findings
3. To acquire specific skills for doing developmental psychology:
 - A. Observation
 - B. Research design
 - C. Compiling and interpreting data
 - D. Inferring consequences from data
 - E. Integrating and evaluating information from multiple sources and perspectives

Requirements and Grading

Participation (including homework assignments) (20%)

Much of the material is designed to increase your understanding of the important issues through discussion of the readings and homework with me and your peers. Thus, you are expected to contribute actively to class discussions and other activities. Clearly, attendance is the first step in participating. The second step in participating is being prepared. That means showing up to class with the reading done and homework assignments completed. Most of the homework assignments will involve coding data, where each member of your team has some different data set. Thus, your contribution is critical, and can't be made up for by your teammate. Your participation grade will be determined by your timely completion of the homework assignments, and your participation both within your small group and the larger class activities.

Homework will be graded on a pass-fail basis. Passing work means that the assignment was completed in good faith, with real effort, and was brought to class on time. I will not accept homework late. Any homework assignments are meant to be the basis of class discussion and activities. So completing it after the class has worked with it does not benefit anyone. You will receive a zero for every missed homework assignment. You will also receive a zero if the homework was not completed in good faith. If you know you

are going to miss class, you must make arrangements with me **AT LEAST 2 HOURS BEFORE CLASS BEGINS** to avoid any penalties.

3 Integrative papers (60%: 20% each)

There will be 3 short (4-6 page) integrative papers over the course of the semester (specific due dates are on the schedule). These papers are designed to make you reflect on the material covered in the prior few weeks and to pull it all together. The details for each paper will be handed out during each unit. Papers must be typed and double-spaced, preferably printed double-sided. Multiple pages must be stapled!

Late Policy and Extensions: Papers are due on Fridays by 4pm. However, I recognize that you may be busier at some points in the semester than others, and I have built in some flexibility in when you may turn in papers. Specifically, each student will begin the semester with a "bank" of **1 weekend extension**, to be used as you see fit throughout the semester. This means that over the course of the semester, of the 3 papers due on Friday, you may turn in any 1 of them the following Monday by noon. There is no need to let me know in advance when you plan on using it - you may simply hand in the paper on Monday. There are no extensions past Monday, and you may only do this once over the course of the semester.

Once the bank is used up, *late essays will not be accepted*. In that case, the paper will be averaged in as a zero. Exceptions will be made only if there is a genuine *catastrophe*, authorized by one of the Powers That Be (Dean of Students, Counseling Center, etc.). So, I recommend that you *use your bank very cautiously!*

Final Paper (20%)

The final paper is designed to help you synthesize some of the most important ideas that you took from the course, and apply them to a particularly vexing issue for developmental psychologists. Many more details will be given as the final approaches. The final paper is due at the end of our scheduled final exam time, **Thursday December 17 by 4pm. There will be absolutely no extensions on the final paper.** Exceptions must go through the Dean of Students Office.

Academic dishonesty

Whitman College has a policy on academic dishonesty and plagiarism ("Policy on Academic Misconduct" in the student handbook) that you should review. This course is structured to make cheating nearly impossible, since no one knows the "right" answers to many of the discovery problems ahead of time, including sometimes me. However, should someone violate the cooperative system of the class, that person will be subject to my consequent disappointment. In addition, all instances of academic dishonesty will result in failing the course, as well as the sanctions of the Council on Student Affairs (as I will report all instances of academic dishonesty to the Dean of Students).

Date	Topic	Class Activity	Reading due	Assignment
Tuesday 9/1	Intro			
Thursday	Themes of Development	How to study? Generating hypotheses, Information Literacy & Using PsycInfo	Syllabus Ch. 1 to p.23	Themes homework
Tuesday 9/8	Research Design	Discuss articles: findings and methods Strengths and limitations	Finish Ch. 1 + Find article on Active Child	
Thursday	Prenatal Development	Discuss methods for prenatal research Intro to nature/nurture	Ch. 2 to p.67 + article on prenatal dev't	
Tuesday 9/15	Nature vs. Nurture	Role of genetics in similarity and difference Why genetics is so complex: Chaos theory	Ch. 3 pp.82-102 Twin reaching data	Twin graph interpretation homework
Thursday	Brain Development	Experience-dependent and Experience-expectant behaviors	Ch. 3 pp.102-115 Greenough paper	
Tuesday 9/22	Motor Development	How motor development happens	Ch. 3 pp.115-123 Ch. 5 pp.170-194 Improvising Infant paper	
Thursday	Motor and Mental Skills in Infancy	How the motor links to the mental	Ch. 4 to p.143 AnotB CD	AnotB coding on DVD Paper #1 due on Friday at 4pm

Tuesday 9/29	Cognitive Dev't: Beyond Piaget	Finish AnotB discussion Moving beyond AnotB...	Finish Chap. 4 Ch. 5 194-207	
Thursday	Temperament	Predict the future	Ch. 10 to p.398	Temperament coding on DVD
Tuesday 10/5	Attachment	Crawling and separation anxiety, Stages of attachment...	Ch. 10 pp. 374- 382, 387-390 Ch. 11 414-426	
Thursday	Attachment and Policy	DayCare Debate	Ch. 12 456-466 articles	
Tuesday 10/13	NO CLASS FALL BREAK			
Thursday	Poverty and Policy	Impact of poverty on child development	Article jigsaw	Paper #2 due on Friday at 4pm
Tuesday 10/20	Intro to Language	What is language? How does it develop?	Language articles	
Thursday	Language Development	Transcripts: normal language development Where did language come from?	Chapter 6	Language homework
Tuesday 10/27	Conceptual Development I	Where, When, Why, and especially How Many?	Ch. 7 to p.256, 269-end	
Thursday	NO CLASS MC at conference			
Tuesday 11/3	Conceptual Development II	Who or What? Autism and Theory of Mind	Ch. 7 pp.256-269 Grandin's article	

Thursday	Social Cognition and Stereotypes	The Eye of the Storm	Ch. 9 pp.354-370 Ch.10 pp.404-409	
Tuesday 11/10	Early Gender Concepts	Student histories Sources of socialization	Ch. 15	Gender homework
Thursday	Peers and Friendship	Hierarchies, sex and age differences...	Ch. 13 to p.523	Paper #3 due on Friday at 4pm
Tuesday 11/17	The Nurture Assumption	Parents' role in shaping children	Ch.13 pp.523-526 Harris article	
Thursday	Moral Development	Piaget, Kohlberg & Gilligan	Ch. 14 530-555	Prosocial homework
	THANKSGIVING BREAK			
Tuesday 12/1	Puberty	Coming of Age Rituals	Ch.14 from Berger (2000). <u>The Developing Person.</u>	
Thursday	Identity in Adolescence	Who Am I?	Ch. 11 426-end	Teen show/movie homework
Tuesday 12/8	Anti-social Behavior and Substance Abuse	Field trip to JJC - stay tuned for details...	Ch. 14 555-568 Sections of <u>Teens Under the Influence</u>	
Thursday	Wrap-Up	Facts and Themes		