SYLLABUS

The objective of this course is to provide an overview of theories, issues, and research concerning psychological development. Class meetings will include lecture and discussion. Assigned readings will be available online through Blackboard. Each week’s readings should be completed prior to the meeting for which they are assigned and students should come to class prepared to contribute to class discussions.

Students will complete 6 4-6 page essays based on assigned readings and lecture material. One essay will be due approximately every two weeks. Essay questions and instructions will be posted on Blackboard. Essays will be due on September 9, September 23, October 14, October 28, November 11, and December 8. Each essay will be worth 100 points.

In addition, students will write a 9-12 page essay on a topic of their own choosing. The essay should integrate theory and research regarding some aspect of development. The essay be worth 120 points. Essays are due on November 23. Additional instructions will be posted on Blackboard.

Course grades will be based on total points according to the following scale: A 93-100%, A- 90-92%, B+ 87-89%, B 83-86%, B- 80-82%, C+ 77-79%, C 70-76%, D 60-69%, F 0-59.

August 24-26  Genes, Environment, and Developmental Change


August 31-September 2  Perceptual Development


September 7-9  Attachment

Essay due September 9.


Temperament


Language Development from Childhood: Critical Periods for Learning

Essay due September 23.


Infant Cognition: Understanding Objects


October 5-7  Numerical Abilities

Chapter 1: Piaget’s Cognitive Stage Theory, pp. 51-106.


October 12-14  Memory & Executive Function

Essay due October 14.


Commentaries on Kirkham et al. (2003):


**Social Cognition: Children’s Understanding of Other Minds**


**Social Cognition: Imitation and Empathy during Infancy**

**Essay due October 28.**


**Atypical Patterns of Development**


November 9-11  Socialization and Family Relationships
Essay due November 11.


November 16-18  Emotion Regulation


November 23-25  Peer and Sibling Relationships

Essay due November 23.


**November 30-December 2**

*Gender and Social Development*


**Essay due December 7.**

*Students with Disabilities:*

*Northern Illinois University is committed to providing an accessible educational environment in collaboration with the Disability Resource Center (DRC). Any student requiring an academic accommodation due to a disability should let his or her faculty member know as soon as possible. Students who need academic accommodations based on the impact of a disability will be encouraged to contact the DRC if they have not done so already. The DRC is located on the 4th floor of the Health Services Building, and can be reached at 815-753-1303 (V) or drc@niu.edu.*

*Academic Integrity:* Please note Northern Illinois University’s policy regarding academic integrity:

*Good academic work must be based on honesty. The attempt of any student to present as his or her own work that which he or she has not produced is regarded by the faculty and administration as a serious offense. Students are considered to have cheated if they copy the work of another during an examination or turn in a paper or an assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else. Students are responsible for plagiarism, intentional or not, if they copy material from books, magazines, or other sources without identifying and acknowledging those sources or if they paraphrase ideas from such sources without acknowledging them. Students responsible for, or assisting others in, either cheating or plagiarism on an assignment, quiz, or examination may receive a grade of F for the course involved and may be suspended or dismissed from the university.*

A tutorial regarding academic integrity is available at: www.niu.edu/ai/students/