

PSYCHOLOGY 3620: Developmental Psychology
Section 001, Fall 2014

Tuesday, Thursday; 2:00-3:20; LIFE A204

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Required Text: Levine, L. E. & Munsch, J. (2014). *Child Development*, 2nd Ed. Los Angeles: Sage.

Course Goals and Overview: This course focuses on human development from a psychological perspective, with an emphasis on the early part of the life course (ages birth to 18 years). As such, we will focus on normative development in cognitive, emotional, and social domains across infancy, childhood, and adolescence. The overarching objectives of the course are to: 1) understand the conceptual and methodological issues relevant to studying early development, 2) cultivate a sophisticated understanding of biopsychosocial development during this portion of the life-span, and 3) consider a variety of “hot topics” pertinent to each developmental period.

The basic format of this course will consist of lectures, selected readings from the text, and class discussion. Attendance is not required but it is **very, very strongly encouraged**. There will be material covered in class that cannot be found in the text! Reading (or at least previewing) the supporting text prior to the associated lecture also is encouraged as this will help you better understand the terminology used, assist in fitting in new topics with those that have been previously considered, as well as facilitate your in-class note-taking. Further, as noted in the Exams section below, mastery of material presented both in class and in the text is expected, thus review of the text along with associated lectures will improve preparation for progress examinations. Finally, throughout the course, in-class activities (i.e., requiring attendance) will include quizzes and the opportunity to earn extra credit points, presenting another benefit of regular attendance (see Quizzes and Extra credit points below).

Course Policies: This course is designed to foster and maintain a positive learning environment. Your attention is expected during lectures, thus headphones, newspapers, and other distracters should be put up, laptops should be used for note-taking only, and cell phones should be turned off and put away during class. Remember: your unrelated activities will distract other students as well! Likewise, your active participation during discussions will be encouraged and questions or comments at any time during lectures are welcomed. Importantly, all comments and responses should be friendly and respectful of the other students in the class. Finally, class will begin promptly at the scheduled time. Some quizzes and activity forms will be handed out at the start of class; if you are not there to receive the form you will not receive credit for the activity. If extraordinary circumstances exist that require some deviation from these policies (e.g., family emergency), please see me **before** class. Please feel free to share any further suggestions for maintaining a positive learning environment that you may have.

In regard to INCLEMENT WEATHER, class will be held if the University is open. Students should not jeopardize their safety, however, to attend class. Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate those unable to make it to class due to weather problems. If there is any question about whether the class will meet, students should check the announcement board for this class on Blackboard.

Measurement and Examination of Student Achievement: Final grades are allocated as follows:

		<u>Letter Grade:</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Points Required**</u>
Exam I:	100 points			
Exam II:	100 points	A	90-100	450-500
Exam III:	100 points	B	80-89	400-449
Exam IV:	100 points	C	70-79	350-399
In-class Quizzes	<u>100 points</u>	D	60-69	300-349
Total points:	500 points	F	0-59	< 300

Grades will NOT be rounded up; 8 points of extra credit are made available for this reason

Exams: There will be 4 exams, each worth 100 points. Exams will consist entirely of multiple-choice questions. Exams will cover material from both the text and the class. **There will be material on the exam that is presented in class and not covered in the textbook, as well as material in the text that will not be covered in class.** The last exam (Thursday December 4th) will NOT be “comprehensive:” it will cover only class/text material identified in part IV of the course.

Quizzes: There will be four “pop” quizzes given throughout the semester, each worth 25 points. **Students must be in class to receive credit for the quizzes. No exceptions.** Students will know that they have missed a quiz because Blackboard will indicate a score of 0/25. Quizzes will include a series of “short answer” questions addressing a current course topic. Importantly, grading will be based on an objective scale: opinions expressed will not influence grades awarded (also, see Social Justice below).

Extra credit points. The opportunity to earn a total of 8 extra credit points (i.e., 2 points per section) will occur throughout the course. Extra credit opportunities will take the form of in-class exercises; these points are granted in lieu of rounding grades up to the next letter category at the end of the semester. **Students must be in class to receive extra credit points. No exceptions.**

Make-up Exam Policy: Students will only be permitted to fully make up exams in the case of documented medical and/or family emergencies (e.g., hospitalization, death in the family, etc.) or required University sponsored events. **Students must provide proper documentation regarding the reason for the absence.** Contact the Instructor and TA as soon as possible so arrangements can be made for a make-up examination. If an exam is missed for ANY other reason, the opportunity to make-up the exam with a 10-point deduction will occur during the Final examination period scheduled for this class (Thursday December 11th at 1:30p). It is the **student’s** responsibility to track exams, and to contact the Instructor and TA to “schedule” the make-up during the Final period. When final grades are computed, a score of **0** will be given for any missed tests for which a make-up examination has not been taken.

Blackboard: The power point lecture summary will be posted on blackboard: <https://learn.unt.edu/>. **Importantly, summaries are provided to facilitate note taking, and cannot replace class attendance.** Simply go to this webpage and enter your EUID and password to access the webpage for this course. Similarly, grades will be posted on Blackboard after each exam; in no event will students’ grades be sent via email. Finally, important announcements will be posted on Blackboard (e.g., grading notes; advisories about inclement weather); students should monitor the announcement board regularly and check the announcement board prior to e-mailing/calling the instructor about administrative issues.

Academic Honesty: The University of North Texas is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity. It is a violation of University guidelines regarding academic dishonesty to cheat, plagiarize, forge, or commit fraud. Accordingly, severe penalties will follow from the discovery of any representation of another individual's work (in any form) as your own. Cheating in any form will result in a "F" for the course, and violators of the Code of Conduct will be referred to the Academic Integrity Office for action. If cheating is suspected but definitive proof is not available, we reserve the right to re-administer any examination in question. See policy number 18.1.16 (Student Standards of Academic Integrity) at <http://policy.unt.edu/> for more information.

Special Accommodations: If you need any special accommodations or feel there is anything that the instructor needs to know that might improve your learning environment in this class, please discuss this with the instructor as soon as possible. All students should view their instructor as a resource and make appropriate use of her during office hours or scheduled appointments to answer questions, clarify reading or lecture material, etc. Remember, UNT requires that students go through the Office of Disability Accommodations before receiving an accommodation for a course, and that conditions must be verified prior to provision of accommodations. Specifically:

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

Social Justice: The University of North Texas is committed to social justice. This instructor concurs with that commitment and expects to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. Our University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veteran status, religion, sexual orientation, color, or national origin.

Classroom Behavior: Student behavior that interferes with the instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.dos.unt.edu/conduct.

CLASS SCHEDULE

**The instructor reserves the right to change the class schedule as necessary; some topics will cross over specified weeks. Additional supporting text (when applicable) will be noted in each lecture's Learning Objectives.

<u>Week and Topic</u>	<u>Supporting Text</u>
<i>Part I: Theoretical Foundations and Early Infancy</i>	
Week starting August 26 th Introduction and Parenting Issues Issues and Approaches	Chapters 1 & 2
Week starting September 2 nd Historical & Theoretical Foundations Biological and Environmental Foundations	Chapters 3 & 4
Week starting September 9 th Birth and the Newborn Baby	Chapter 5
**EXAM I: Thursday September 11th	
<i>Part II: Cognitive Development</i>	
Week starting September 16 th Theoretical Foundations and Early Cognition	Chapter 7
Week starting September 23 rd Early and Middle Childhood	Chapters 7 & 9
Week starting September 30 th Fostering Cognitive Development	Chapters 7 & 9
Week of October 7 th Adolescence	Chapters 7 & 9
**EXAM II: Thursday October 9th	
<i>Part III: Socio-Emotional Development, Part I</i>	
Week starting October 14 th Theoretical Foundations	Chapter 10
Week starting October 21 st Early Emotional Development and Common Issues	Chapter 10
Week starting October 28 th Adolescent Emotional Development and Common Issues	Chapters 6 & 10
**EXAM III: Tuesday November 4th	
<i>Part IV: Socio-Emotional Development, Part II</i>	
Week starting November 3 rd (Exam on Tuesday) The Developing "Self"	Chapter 11
Week starting November 10 th Social Relationships	Chapter 12
Week starting November 17 th Identity and Emerging Adulthood	
Week starting November 24 th Attachment	Chapter 10
NO CLASS Thursday November 27 th - Thanksgiving	
Week starting December 2 nd Bringing it all Together	
**EXAM IV: Thursday December 4th	

***** Class Final Period: Thursday December 11th at 1:30pm *****

Student Information Sheet

Please print legibly

Name: _____

Email address (**that you monitor**): _____

Student ID number: _____

Class: FR SO JR SR GRAD Major(s): _____

What other psychology courses have you taken? Please note if they were in high school (HS), here at UNT or at another university, as well as your final grade in that course (optional).

Example: General Psychology, UNT B

What did you particularly like about these courses? Dislike?

Why are you taking Developmental Psychology? What topics (related to this course) are of particular interest to you?

When you think of the best instructors that you have ever had, what did they do that made them better than the rest?

What are your (current) post-graduate goals?
