

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

University of North Texas
Department of Educational Psychology
DFST 3123: Child Development

Spring 2015

Instructor: Todd Kettler, Ph.D.
Office: Matthews Hall 304D
Office hours: Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11:30; Thursdays 3:20 to 5:20
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Course Description

This course explores the basic principles of development and learning in children (focus on ages 3-11). Development is studied in children in three primary areas: physical, cognitive, and social emotional. Students will learn the major theories of child development and some basic principles of research in the field of child studies. Students will learn the sequence of child development and the processes that underlie it, and they will build an understanding of the impact of context and culture on development.

Class Meetings: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00 – 3:20; Environmental Science 115

Required Text: Berk, L. E. (2012). *Infants and Children: Prenatal through middle childhood* (7th ed.). Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

Learning Objectives:

1. Identify the major theories guiding research and practice in the area of Child Development.
2. Describe ways in which information about children is gathered, and evaluate the quality of that information.
3. List historical and cultural perspectives about children, child rearing and child development.
4. Identify various social policy issues which are of significance to children and families, and to professionals who work with them.
5. Link relevant research findings with real world lives of children and families.

Course Requirements:

1. Class attendance and participation in class activities/discussion;
2. Completion of assigned readings and readiness to ask questions and discuss material
3. Observation in the child development lab, with interpretation/analysis
4. Three exams over readings and class lectures
5. A research paper stating and defending a viable thesis in the area of child development.
6. A cumulative final examination

Course Grading: The total number of points earned will determine your final grade. There are a total of 700 points possible.

A = 630 to 700 points

B = 560 to 629 points

C = 490 to 559 points

D = 420 to 489 points

F = Less than 420 points

Points per Assignment:

- Exam 1: 100 points (February 19th)
- Exam 2: 100 points (March 31st)
- Exam 3: 100 points (May 5th)
- Final Exam (cumulative): 200
- Position Paper: 100 points
- Child Development Research Paper: 100

Class Schedule (Readings are to be completed before coming to class on the corresponding date.)

Date	Topic	Required Reading
1/20	Overview and History of Child Study Research	
1/22	The Field of Child Development	Chapter 1: 2-14
1/27	Mid-Twentieth Century Theories	Chapter 1: 14-30
1/29	Studying the Child	Chapter 1: 30-46
2/3	Piaget and Erikson	Blackboard Readings
2/5	Genetics and Development	Chapter 2: 50-68
2/10	Environmental Contexts for Development	Chapter 2: 69-88
2/12	Child Development and Socioeconomics	Blackboard Readings
2/17	Child Development and Physical Environments	Blackboard Readings
2/19	Exam 1	
2/24	Physical Development in Early Childhood	Chapter 8: 289-307
2/26	Physical Development in Early Childhood	Chapter 8: 308-314
3/3	Cognitive Development in Early Childhood	Chapter 9: 317-329
3/5	Cognitive Development in Early Childhood	Chapter 9: 329-346
3/10	Cognitive Development in Early Childhood	Chapter 9: 346-359

3/12	Social/Emotional Development in Early Child Position Paper Due	Chapter 10: 363-377
3/24	Social/Emotional Development in Early Child	Chapter 10: 378-390
3/26	Social/Emotional Development in Early Child	Chapter 10: 390-405
3/31	Exam 2	
4/2	Physical Development in Middle Childhood	Chapter 11: 411-434
4/7	Obesity in Childhood: Trends and Causes	Blackboard Reading
4/9	Cognitive Development in Middle Childhood Child Development Research Paper Due	Chapter 12: 436-442
4/14	Cognitive Development in Middle Childhood	Chapter 12: 442-453
4/16	Cognitive Development in Middle Childhood	Chapter 12: 453-466
4/21	Cognitive Development in Middle Childhood	Chapter 12: 466-477
4/23	Social/Emotional Development in Middle Child	Chapter 13: 480-492
4/28	Social/Emotional Development in Middle Child	Chapter 13: 492-503
4/30	Social/Emotional Development in Middle Child	Chapter 13: 503-523
5/5	Exam 3	
5/7	Final Exam Review	
5/14	Final Exam 1:30-3:30	ENV 115

Assessments/Assignments for this Course

- Three Unit Exams (100 points each)**
 There will be three unit exams covering content from that specific segment of the course. These exams are not cumulative. They will cover the content from the assigned readings, lectures, and class discussions. The schedule of topics and reading is clearly delineated on the class schedule below. **Do not miss exams.** There are no makeup exams except in documented emergencies at the instructor's discretion.
- Position Paper (100)**
 Students will be given a set of papers to read on a topic. Based on their reading, personal experiences, and ethics, they will write a position paper in which they take a side on the issue and defend their position with evidence and a rational argument. This assignment is worth 100 points and will be submitted through Turnitin on Blackboard.
- Child Development Research Paper (100 points)**
 The research paper is an in-depth study of a focused topic in child development. I will provide a list of topics from which to choose. More details on the paper will be presented in class. The paper will be between 2500-3000 words, submitted to me through a Turnitin drop box on our class Blackboard. Students are expected to state and defend a viable thesis regarding the topic. This is a research paper assignment, and students are expected to locate and use quality, reliable sources of information and follow the referencing guidelines of the American Psychological Association (APA) publication manual, (5th ed.).

- **Final Examination (200 points)**

The final examination for the course is cumulative, covering the big ideas and concepts of the semester. Notice that the final exam is worth 200 total points making it worth approximately 29% of your final grade for the course.

Dropping a class: The deadline for dropping classes for this semester without written consent from the instructor is 1/23/2015. For more information regarding the schedule for requesting a drop from the class with the written consent of the instructor, consult the UNT Office of the Registrar website. Never assume you have been added to or dropped from a class without double-checking your Update Status.

Blackboard Learn (<http://learn.unt.edu>) will be our primary means of communication. Please get into the habit of checking it regularly. It is where you will find assignment descriptions and rubrics. It is also where you will turn in your assignments. You will need to use your EUID and password to log on. Check Blackboard regularly for announcements. However, if you need to reach me, the fastest and most efficient means of communication is email: todd.kettler@unt.edu

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam [or specify alternative sanction, such as course failure]. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students, who may impose further penalty. According to the UNT catalog, the term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to: a. use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; b. dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; c. the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; d. dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s); or e. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage. The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to: a. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and b. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

ACCEPTABLE STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Student behavior that interferes with an 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 <http://deanofstudents.unt.edu>.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION – EAGLE CONNECT

Your access point for business and academic services at UNT occurs at <http://www.my.unt.edu>. All official communication from the university will be delivered to your Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward your e-mail: <http://eagleconnect.unt.edu/>

OFFICE OF DISABILITY ACCOMODATION

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. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://disability.unt.edu>. You may also contact them by phone at (940) 565-4323.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION & PROCEDURES

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify you with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). The system sends voice messages (and text messages upon permission) to the phones of all active faculty staff, and students. Please make certain to update your phone numbers at <http://www.my.unt.edu>. Some helpful emergency preparedness actions include: 1) know the evacuation routes and severe weather shelter areas in the buildings where your classes are held, 2) determine how you will contact family and friends if phones are temporarily unavailable, and 3) identify where you will go if you need to evacuate the Denton area suddenly. In the event of a university closure, please refer to Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course materials.

RETENTION OF STUDENT RECORDS

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Blackboard online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. You have a right to view your individual record; however, information about your records will not be divulged to other individuals without the proper written consent. You are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the university's policy in accordance with those mandates at the following link: <http://essc.unt.edu/registrar/ferpa.html>

STUDENT EVALUATION OF TEACHING (SETE)

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The Student Evaluation of Teaching (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available at the end of the semester to provide you with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught.

SUCCEED AT UNT

UNT endeavors to offer you a high-quality education and to provide a supportive environment to help you learn and grown. And, as a faculty member, I am committed to helping you be successful as a student. Here's how to succeed at UNT: Show up. Find Support. Get advised. Be prepared. Get involved. Stay focused.

To learn more about campus resources and information on how you can achieve success, go <http://success.unt.edu/>.

The fastest and easiest way to contact me:

Email: todd.kettler@unt.edu

Other options to contact Dr. Kettler:

Department of Educational Psychology: 940-565-4646

Dr. Kettler's Office Phone: 940-891-6820