

Child Psychology
PSYC – 201 - 001
Fall 2009

Professor:	Greg Everett, PhD	Class Location:	Founders Hall, Room 0207
Office:	Alumni Hall, Room 0129b	Class Time:	Tuesdays & Thursdays 12:30 – 1:45
Phone:	650 – 3430	Office Hours:	Tuesdays, 10 - 12 Thursdays, 2 – 3 or by appointment
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Course Description

Child Psychology is a 3 credit hour course that will provide students with an overview of the psychological and biological development of children from birth through puberty. Topical coverage will focus on several aspects of childhood development including physical, perceptual, motor, cognitive, communication, emotional, social, moral, gender, and behavioral development. In addition, the effects of various cultural influences on child development including familial, community, and school will be discussed.

Required Text

Kail, R. V. (2007). *Children and Their Development (4th Edition)*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson.

Course Objectives

By the completion of the course students will gain:

- an understanding of theories regarding child development.
- an understanding of childhood physical development including genetics and stages of development including prenatal, birth, and newborns.
- an understanding of perceptual and motor development in children.
- an understanding of cognitive development in children.
- an understanding of communication, emotional, and moral development in children.
- an understanding of the effects of gender on development.
- an understanding of how various external influences including the family, school, community, and popular media influence children.
- an understanding of disorders common in childhood.
- knowledge to enhance their critical thinking skills regarding the media and research.
- knowledge to enhance skills related to the use of PsycINFO.
- knowledge to enhance their writing skills.

Assignments and Final Grades

Assignments		Final Grades (points)	
Exam #1	84 points	A:	378+
Exam #2	84 points	B:	336 – 377
Exam #3	84 points	C:	294 – 335
Exam #4	84 points	D:	252 – 293
Written Assignment	84 points	F:	< 252

- **Exams** – Four (4) in-class, “closed book” exams will be given throughout the semester. Each exam will cover only the material since the last exam. As such, the final exam is **not comprehensive**. Each exam will cover both lecture topics and information from the assigned readings, and will include any combination of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, or short-answer questions. **Just because a topic was not covered during class lecture, does not mean the information will not be on the exam.**
- **Written Assignment** – Once during the semester students will be required to complete a research paper on a topic related to one discussed in class (chosen by the professor). Further information about the completion of this assignment will be provided on 9/3/09.

Attendance Policy

Although attendance at class lecture sessions is not a course requirement, regular class attendance is expected. **Regardless of lecture attendance, students are responsible for all material covered during each class session.** As exams will cover material from both class lecture and the assigned readings, regular class attendance is strongly encouraged.

In order to reward class attendance, throughout the semester there will be several random attendance checks that will take place during the first 3 minutes of class. Each student present during these random checks will earn 2 bonus points that will be added to their score on the next exam. In order to earn such points, students must arrive to class on time and remain in class for the entire period (as leaving early on such days will result in the loss of the 2 bonus points).

Also, class attendance on exam days is a specific course requirement. Make-up exams will only be permitted for “excused absences” that are accompanied by proper documentation submitted to the professor. In order to be eligible for a make-up exam, proper documentation must be submitted to the professor **by the end of the next regularly scheduled class period.** If such documentation is not submitted according to this time requirement, you will automatically earn a score of 0 on that exam. Once documentation is received, the student will be permitted to makeup a missed exam **only during class time immediately following the regularly scheduled forth exam.** In such instances, students will first complete and turn in their regularly scheduled forth exam and will immediately be given a copy of the exam to be made up. **Students will not be permitted to leave the classroom between their completion of the forth exam and**

relevant makeup exams. Make-up exams may not be of the same format of those exams given during class.

Please be aware that this professor will not drop a student from this course for non-attendance. It is completely your responsibility to adhere to all relevant university guidelines related to officially withdrawing from this course.

Additional Information

Statement on Disabilities

Students with documented disabilities should notify the instructor regarding any needed accommodations at the beginning of the course. To request accommodations please contact the Office of Disability Support Services, Rendleman Hall, Room 1218 (618-650-3726). According to SIUE safety and procedures policies, students with disabilities have the option of developing a written plan for evacuation in the unlikely event of an emergency that requires evacuation. If any student with a disability would like to develop a written evacuation plan for this class, please contact the instructor

Department of Psychology Policy on Withdrawal and Incomplete Grades

All withdrawals must be completed by the end of the 13th week of classes during fall and spring, and by the end of the 6th week of an 8-week summer term. When students discontinue attending class and do not withdraw from a course they may receive the grade of UW (Unauthorized Withdrawal). The grade of UW will only be given when a student's grade based on the course requirements is an F. The grade of UW is calculated as an F in a student's grade average. The granting of a grade of I (Incomplete) is not automatic and is available only in cases when a student has completed most of the work required for a class but is prevented by a medical or similar emergency from completing a small portion of the work not later than the end of the following semester. An I must be approved by the instructor with appropriate documentation provided by the student. If an instructor agrees to give a student an I, the instructor will fill out a Memorandum of Incomplete Grade to be kept with the student's records. If the work is not completed by the time specified on the Memorandum, the student's grade will be changed from I to F.

Statement on Plagiarism

Plagiarism includes either presenting someone else's words without quotation marks (even if you cite the source) or presenting someone else's ideas without citing that source. If you plagiarize, your instructor cannot evaluate your understanding of the topic. When paraphrasing from another source, at the very least the student should change the wording, sentence syntax, and order of ideas presented in the paper. Ideally, the student will integrate ideas from multiple sources while providing critical commentary on the topic in a way that clearly identifies whether words and ideas are those of the student or are from another source. Plagiarism is one type of academic misconduct described in SIUE's Student Academic Code (<http://www.siue.edu/policies/3c2.shtml>). University policy states that "Normally a student who plagiarizes shall receive a grade of F in the course in which the act occurs. The offense shall also be reported to the Provost." (<http://www.siue.edu/policies/1i6.shtml>). The University policy discusses additional academic sanctions including suspension and expulsion from the University. To insure

that you understand how to avoid plagiarism, we encourage you to review the information on plagiarism provided on the Department of Psychology web page at <http://www.siue.edu/education/psychology/plagiarism.shtml>.

Tentative Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Required Reading
8/25	Course introduction & syllabus review	
8/27	The Science of Child Development	Chapter 1
9/1	The Science of Child Development	Chapter 1
9/3	Written Assignment Discussion	
9/8	Genetic Bases of Child Development	Chapter 2
9/10	Prenatal Development, Birth, and the Newborn	Chapter 3
9/15	Catch up...	
9/17	EXAM #1 (READINGS AND LECTURES)	
9/22	Growth & Health	Chapter 4
9/24	Perceptual and Motor Development	Chapter 5
9/29	<i>Additional Topic – ADHD (not in book)</i>	
10/1	Theories of Cognitive Development	Chapter 6 (pp. 164 – 178)
10/6	Intelligence and Individual Differences in Cognition	Chapter 8
10/8	TBA...	
10/13	<i>Additional Topic – Cognitive Assessment (not in book)</i>	
10/15	Catch up...	
10/20	EXAM #2 (READINGS AND LECTURES)	
10/22	Language and Communication	Chapter 9
10/27	Emotional Development	Chapter 10
10/29	Inside/Outside Day to Work on Written Assignment	
11/3	Understanding Self and Others	Chapter 11
11/5	Moral Understanding and Behavior	Chapter 12
11/10	Catch up...	
11/12	EXAM #3 (READINGS AND LECTURES)	
11/17	Gender and Development	Chapter 13
11/19	Family Relationships	Chapter 14
11/23- 11/27	<i>Additional Topic – Parent Training (not in book)</i>	
12/1	Thanksgiving Break – No Class	
12/3	Influences Beyond the Family Written Assignment Due	Chapter 15
12/8	<i>Additional Topic – Teacher Behavior (not in book)</i>	
12/10	Catch up...	
12/16 @ 12:00 (Wed)	EXAM #4 (READINGS AND LECTURES)	