

Principles of Developmental Psychology  
Rutgers University, New Brunswick; 01:830:271  
Summer 2012; First Session (May 29 – July 5)  
Tues 6-9:40, ONLINE  
Thurs 6-9:40pm, IN CLASS: SEC rm 207

Dr. Linnea Dickson

Online Office Hours: Tues 6:00-9:00 – Main Chatroom\*

In-Person Office Hours: by arrangement; Tillett 101

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Required Textbook: Berk, L: Exploring Lifespan Development 2/e, Pearson

ISBN-10: 0205748597 ISBN-13: 9780205748594

Required Online Materials: MyDevelopmentLab to accompany the textbook

MyDevelopmentLab CourseID: **dickson07765**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This is a hybrid course, which means that we will be meeting both online and in class. A significant portion of your course work (and course grade) will take place online. It is imperative that you have reliable internet access.

The reading load for this course is intense – you will be reading a 19-chapter textbook in 6 weeks! If you do not have the time and inclination to do a great deal of reading this is probably not the course for you.

### **COURSE GOALS**

Upon successful completion of this course

\*Students will recognize the major physical, cognitive and socioemotional hallmarks of human development at each major period of the lifespan.

\*Students will be able to recognize and distinguish among the major developmental theories.

\*Students will demonstrate a beginning ability to “think like a developmental scientist” which includes:

\*being able to critically evaluate developmental theories, research, and conclusions;

\*understanding how change over time is conceptualized and researched.

\*Students will demonstrate the ability to apply their knowledge of the course content to real world problems.

## COURSE POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

### ATTENDANCE

**Attendance-In Class.** Attendance at our Thursday class meetings is **mandatory**. Missing just one summer class is equivalent to missing about 1½ weeks of class during the regular semester. Participation in discussions and GroupWork Projects during class meetings is a significant portion of your grade. Given that, a student who misses even just one class is at significant risk of failing the class. If you are not sure you will be able to attend every class I strongly suggest you not sign up for this course.

**Attendance-Online.** You are also **required** to “attend” class online during our Tues class meetings by signing on to eCollege and working with your Groupmates on the week’s project (see GroupWork and GroupWork Chat sections below). If you are not sure you will be able to sign on to our class every Tuesday, I strongly suggest you not sign up for this class.

### PARTICIPATION

**GroupWork.** Each week you will work with a group of 4 or 5 students (assigned by me) on a project related to the week’s topic.

**Online:** You are expected to communicate with your group members online during Tuesday’s class time (6-9:40pm) in preparation for Thursday’s class (I will assign each group a chatroom for this purpose). You may also decide together on an additional time(s) when you all agree to sign into your group chatroom, but keep in mind that I won’t necessarily be present to help/advise you during these alternate chat times. (Please note that all posts to chatrooms are archived and visible for my review. I will use them as the basis for your Individual Online GroupWork score. While the atmosphere in the group chatrooms is more informal than for Threaded Discussions, appropriate etiquette is still required!) Finally, you may email your groupmates during the week. Just make sure you include me in any email exchange pertaining to your GroupWork Project so that I can include it in your score. (To insure inclusion in your GroupWork score, please include the words “GroupWork Project” in the subject line of these emails.)

**In Class:** During class Thursday you will work with your group to complete your project and present it to the class.

**Grading:** Your GroupWork score for each week will consist of 3 parts: a) your Individual Online contribution to the project throughout the week (15 points); b) the Overall grade for the project content (20 points); and c) the grade for your group’s presentation (10 points). Each group member will receive the same score for parts b and c. GroupWork is worth 45% of your course grade.

## ONLINE ASSIGNMENTS

**MyDevelopmentLab (MDL) Study Plans.** You are required to complete the 25 question Pre-test and Post-test for each chapter. Take the Pre-test before reading the chapter. You probably won't do to well on it. But don't worry – that is to be expected since you haven't read the material yet! You can review your answers and the “Study Plan” that MDL creates based on you answers to see what section(s) of the chapter you may need to spend more time on. After reading the chapter, take the Post-test. If you score 23 points or more – you are finished. Be sure to click “Email Study Plan” and send your scores to me ([lddevelru@me.com](mailto:lddevelru@me.com)) and to yourself if you wish. If you scored lower than 23 on the Post-test, go back and re-read/study the sections that your Study Guide indicates you need improvement or did poorly on. When you are ready to try again, re-take the Post-test. You can take the Post-test as many times as you need to. Once you have scored 23 points or more, send me your Study Plan by clicking on the “email Study Plan” button and entering my email ([lddevelru@me.com](mailto:lddevelru@me.com)). Completed Study Plans (both Pre-test and Post-test completed for each assigned chapter, with at least 23 points scored on the Post-tests) are due by midnight Monday of the appropriate week (see schedule). Study Plans submitted after the deadline will not be accepted and will result in a 0. Study Plans are worth 1 point each, for a total of 19% of your course grade.

**Threaded Discussions (“ThDs”).** Each week I will pose a question related to the week's reading. You are required to post at least one response to the week's topic by midnight Monday (due date for first week is midnight Tuesday) and responses to two classmates' posts by midnight Wednesday. Your discussion posts will be graded for quality and must conform to “netiquette” guidelines (see “Guidelines for ThDs” under Course Home in our eCollege course site). Your posts and responses to the weekly discussions are worth 2.5 points per week, for a total of 15% of your course grade.

**GroupWork Chat.** You are required to sign in to your group's assigned chatroom during the Tues evening “online” portion of our class (6-9:40pm) to work with your groupmates on the weekly project. You may also choose to set up additional/alternate time(s) with your groupmates. You will also be send emails to your group during the week. (Remember, to insure inclusion in your GroupWork score, please include the words “GroupWork Project” in the subject line of these emails.) Your contributions to the groupwork discussions in preparation for the Groupwork Project constitutes the Individual Online portion of your GroupWork grade.

\* **Main Chatroom.** Use the main chatroom to communicate with me during office hours (keeping in mind that everyone can see what everyone else says in this chatroom – use email to communicate with me privately), and chatting with your fellow students about the course, assignments, study-buddy requests, etc. You do not have to ever post in the main course chatroom (though I suggest that you do make use of it). Even if you don't plan on posting in the Main Chatroom you should “stop in” periodically (especially Tuesday evenings) to see if there is anything useful/interesting going on.

**Grading** Your course grade will be calculated as follows

Syllabus Quiz .....	1%
MDL Study Plans .....	19%
Threaded Discussion Participation .....	15%
Individual GroupWork contribution .....	15%
GroupWork Project Content .....	20%
GroupWork Presentation .....	10%
In class Chapter/Lecture Quizzes .....	15%

## SCHEDULE

### Week 1: Introduction and Foundations

Reading: Textbook chapters 1-3.

Online:

eCollege: Sign on to our eCollege course site using your Rutgers netID. Familiarize yourself with all items under the “Course Home” tab (far left hand side of screen). Be sure to read the syllabus!

Syllabus quiz (located under Week 1): You must score 100% to earn credit for this assignment. You may take the quiz as many times as needed to earn the 100%. The quiz will only be available until **10:00pm Tuesday** – you must complete it (with a score of 100%) to earn credit for it.

Textbook assessment: Register for MyDevelopmentLab for our course and textbook. (See instructions under “Enroll in MyDevelopmentLab” under “Course Home” in our eCollege site. Our CourseID for MyDevelopmentLab is **dickson07765**.) Take the Pre-test and Post-test for each chapter (chapters 1-3). Email me your Study Plan by **5:00pm Friday**. See more complete instructions above.

Threaded Discussion: Post a response to both topics in the “Getting to know each other” Discussion by **midnight Tues night** and respond to your classmates by **midnight Wed night**. Make sure you review the Guidelines for Threaded Discussions tab (under Course Home in our course site) before you post.

GroupWork Chat: On **Tuesday** during our scheduled class time (**6:00pm**) sign on to our eCollege course site and enter your GroupChat chatroom to prepare for Thursday’s GroupWork Project and presentation. You will find instructions for your project by clicking on the “Developmental Issues Chat” tab under the Week 1 tab in our course site.

In Class (Thursday)

- Introduction
- Group Work
- Presentations
- Break
- Lecture

## Week 2: Infant & Toddler Years

Reading: Textbook chapters 4-6

### Online

Textbook assessment: Take the MyDevelopmentLab Pre-test and Post-test for each chapter (chapters 4-6). Email me your Study Plan by **5:00pm Thursday** (note due date is different than for Week 1).

Threaded Discussion: Cosleeping. Post by **midnight Mon night**, and respond to classmates by **midnight Wed night** (note due date is different than for Week 1).

GroupWork Chat: Design a Toy. Work with your groupmates online, **Tues, 6:00pm.**

### In Class (Thursday)

- Unit 1 Quiz
- GroupWork
- Presentations
- Break
- Lecture

Weeks 3-6 will follow the same schedule as Week 2, unless otherwise noted. See “Schedule Overview” below for topics and due dates.

## Schedule Overview

Week	Readings	Tuesday ONLINE		Thursday In Class	
1. History and Foundations	Ch 1-3	May 29	*Sign on to eCollege *Register for MDL  Syllabus quiz  Discussion: Get to know each other (post by midnight Tues night; responses by midnight Wed night)  GroupChat (Tues 6:00pm): Developmental Issues  Wk 1 Study Plans due by 5:00pm FRI.	May 31	Group project: Persuade your classmates
2. Infant & Toddler Years	Ch 4-6	June 5	Discussion: Cosleeping (post by midnight <b>Mon</b> night; responses by midnight <b>Wed</b> night)  GroupChat (Tues 6:00pm)  Wk 2 Study Plans due by 5:00pm <b>Thurs.</b>	June 7	Group project: Design a toy
3. Early & Middle Childhood	Ch 7-10	June 12	Discussion: Spelling Bees (post by midnight <b>Mon</b> ; responses by midnight <b>Wed</b> )  GroupChat (Tues 6:00pm)  Wk 3 Study Plans due by 5:00pm <b>Thurs.</b>	June 14	Group project: Various

Week	Readings	Tuesday ONLINE		Thursday In Class	
4. Adolescence	Ch 11-12	June 19	Discussion: Crowd Membership (post by midnight Mon; responses by midnight Wed)  GroupChat (Tues 6:00)  Wk 4 Study Plans due by 5:00pm Thurs.	June 21	Group project: Various
5. Early & Middle Adulthood	Ch 13-16	June 26	Discussion: Cohabitation (post by midnight Mon; responses by midnight Wed)  GroupChat (Tues 6:00)  Wk 5 Study Plans due by 5:00pm Thurs.	June 28	Group project: Various
6. Late Adulthood and End of Life	Ch 17-19	July 3	Discussion: Older Adults in the Media (post by midnight Mon; responses by midnight Wed)  GroupChat (Tues 6:00)  Wk 6 Study Plans due by 5:00pm Thurs.	July 5	Group project: Various