

PRINCIPLES OF DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

Spring 15; 01:830:271
MTh2: 10:20-11:40; Tillett 242

Instructor: Dr. Linnea Dickson

ldickson@rci.rutgers.edu

Office Hours: Tues 9:00-11:00 or by appt.
Tillett Hall 101 (Undergrad Psych Dept – Liv.)

TA: Jenna Herold

Office Hours:
Rm:

Required Online Content: **ConnectPlus** web-based (**LearnSmart**) assignments for our section:
<https://connect.mheducation.com/class/l-dickson-sp15-sec01>

ConnectPlus includes access to the textbook in ebook form as well as the chapter-based assignments. **This is all you need for the course.** You can buy access to our section of ConnectPlus (which includes the ebook and assignments) directly through McGraw-Hill. I think the cost is **\$85**.

If you want a physical copy of the text, NJBooks is selling a bundle that includes access to our ConnectPlus section (with ebook and assignments) and a loose-leaf version of the text.

Textbook: Essentials of Life-Span Development, 3rd Ed. by J. Santrock; McGraw –Hill pub.

LEARNING 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.

QUICKLOOK:

Read an average of 1-1.5 chapters per week (about 30 pages).

Complete LearnSmart assignment for each chapter by assigned due date (est. 40-90 mins. each) 15%

Come to class - complete In Class Questions. 10%

Three (3) in-semester exams. 50 questions each. Drop your lowest exam. 40%

Final exam: 80 questions. Partially cumulative. Cannot be dropped. 35%

Lectures: You are expected to attend all lectures. While the majority of lecture material will be based on information contained in your text, I will also regularly present information not found in your text.

Exam questions will be drawn from both the lectures and the textbook.

Textbook: Read the textbook! For each chapter there is a LearnSmart assignment (see below) to be completed AFTER you read the chapter. Make sure you give yourself enough time to read the chapter before attempting the assignment - you will not do well if you just try to guess your way through the LearnSmart assignment without first having read the text. You are responsible for **all** information covered in the text, even if I did not go over it in lecture. Remember: exam questions will be drawn from both the lectures and the textbook.

LearnSmart assignments: For each chapter of the textbook you are required to complete a LearnSmart assignment. LearnSmart assignments are made up of flashcard-like questions that adapt to your level of understanding. Each LearnSmart assignment is worth 1% of your grade. There are 17 LearnSmart assignments, therefore, you may miss 2 assignments without penalty. To receive credit for an assignment, you must reach 100% mastery of the material by the due date (see below or our Connect course site for due dates). **No partial credit will be awarded** - you must reach 100% mastery to receive credit. Anything less than 100% mastery (by the due date) will result in a 0 for that assignment. Each assignment contains about 60-120 items to master. If you get an item wrong, LearnSmart will present it to you again later (as many times as it takes for you get it right). The estimated time to complete the LearnSmart assignments ranges from about 40 to 90 minutes. You should plan to break this time up into several sessions for best results.

STUDY TIP: You can always go back to a previous chapter's LearnSmart module to review the material (i.e., receive more questions), even after the due date has passed (click on LearnSmart on the right side of our ConnectPlus course site). This is a great way to review for an exam!

In-Class Questions (ICQs): Periodically (approx. 12 times during the semester) I will ask you to answer a short question pertaining to the day's lecture. The type of question will vary. For example they may check for your understanding of a specific concept; ask you to apply a concept to your daily life; make connections between concepts; or even give me feedback on your experience of the day's lecture. Your answers will be short; 1 or 2 sentences will suffice. You must be present when the ICQ is given and hand in your answer immediately to receive credit. Asking a classmate to answer and/submit an ICQ for you, or answering/submitting one for a classmate is a violation of the Rutgers University Student Code of Conduct and will be treated accordingly (see link below).

ICQ Point Calculation: In-Class Questions will account for 10% of your grade. Since each question is worth 1% of your grade and there will be more than 10 ICQs, missing one or two questions due to absence from class will not negatively affect your grade. I do not accept late ICQs or offer makeup ICQs, for any reason.

Exams: There will be 3 exams during the semester and a final (held during finals week). The 3 semester exams will consist of approximately 40-50 multiple-choice questions and (possibly) a few short-answer questions. The final will consist of two parts. The first will be similar to the semester exams and will cover the material from the last portion of the course (i.e., since the 3rd exam). The second part of the final will consist of approximately 30 questions drawn from material from the entire semester.

No make-ups. Your lowest score from the first 3 exams will be dropped before calculating your exam average. If you miss a semester exam, that missed exam will automatically count as the exam to be dropped. **There are no make-up exams.** I make very few exceptions to this policy – only students with documented, excusable absences will be considered for a makeup. You must contact me or our TA BEFORE the exam (or as soon as you are able) in order to be eligible for consideration for a makeup. Make-ups must be completed within one week of your return to classes.

The Final Exam is mandatory. You must take the final exam, and your final exam score will not be dropped. Our Final is scheduled for Mon, 5/11 at 8:00am. If you have a **documented** conflict with our scheduled final, please see me or our TA as soon as possible so we can make arrangements.

Your Course Grade will be calculated as follows:

LearnSmart Assignments	15%
ICQs:	10%
Two in-semester exams (drop lowest of 3)	40% (20% each)
Final Exam (5/11, 8am)	35%

Course Schedule

WEEK	TOPIC	LS Due Dates 10:00am		EXAMS
		Mon 10a	Thurs. 10a	
1: x; 1/22	Intro	No class		
2: 1/26; 1/29	Res. Meth; Prenatal			
3: 2/2; 2/5	Infancy: Phys & Cog	Ch. 1	Ch. 2	
4: 2/9; 2/12	Infancy: Soc & Emot	Ch. 3	Ch. 4	
5: 2/16 ; 2/19	Early Ch. Phys&Cog	(Exam 1)	Ch. 5	MON: Exam 1 Chs. 1-4; Lecture
6: 2/23; 2/26	Early Ch. Soc&Emot		Ch. 6	
7: 3/2; 3/5	Mid-Late Ch. Phys & Cog	Ch. 7	Ch. 8	
8: 3/9; 3/12	Mid-Late Ch. Soc & Emot		(Exam 2)	THURS: Exam 2 Chs 5-8; Lecture
SPRING BREAK				
9: 3/23; 3/26	Adolescence: Phys & Cog; Soc & Emot	Ch. 9 (due Tues)		
10: 3/30; 4/2	Adolescence: Soc & Emot Early Adult: Phys &Cog	Ch. 10	Ch. 11	
11. 4/6; 4/9	Early Adulthood: Phys & Cog; Soc & Emot	Ch. 12		
12. 4/13 ; 4/16	MiddleAdult: Phys & Cog	(Exam 3)	Ch. 13	MON: Exam 3 Chs. 9-12; Lecture
13. 4/20; 4/23	MiddlAdult: Phys & Cog; Soc & Emot	Ch. 14	Ch. 15	
15: 4/27; 4/30	Late Adulthood; Death & Dying	Ch. 16	Ch. 17	
16: 5/4	Wrap-Up	Last Class		

FINAL: Mon, 5/11/14, 8am

Other Important Stuff

Learning Centers. If you have difficulty taking good notes during lectures, knowing what or how to study, and/or doing your best on multiple choice exams I strongly urge you to visit one of the LRCs. Check out their website: lrc.rutgers.edu.

You can view their workshop schedule, make an appointment, and download some helpful guides.

Academic Integrity. Please make sure you are familiar with the Rutgers University Code of Student Conduct by reviewing the materials at: academicintegrity.rutgers.edu. Suspected cheating or plagiarism will be referred to Judicial Affairs.

Special Accommodations. Please contact me as soon as feasible with documentation from the Office of Disability Services if you require special accommodations during testing. In this way we will be able to ensure that the appropriate arrangements will be in place before our first exam.

Extra Credit. There are a several ways to earn extra credit in this class.

- a) Complete more than 15 LearnSmart assignments (by their due dates). Worth 1% each. Max 2%.
- b) Hand in more than 10 ICQs. Worth 1% each. Max 3%.
- c) Post a summary/discussion in our “Developmental Psychology in the News” forum in Sakai. Worth up to 4 semester-exam points. (More detailed instructions will follow.)
- d) You can also earn 1 semester-exam point if another student responds to one of your discussion questions and you respond back to them. Max 2 semester-exam points (if you respond to 2 different students’ responses to your question(s)).
- e) Respond to a discussion question posted by a fellow student in the “Developmental Psychology in the News” forum. Worth 1 semester-exam point. You will receive credit for only 1 response to a single summary/discussion post, but you can respond to up to 3 different summary/discussion posts for credit. Max 3 semester-exam points.

No other extra credit opportunities will be offered. Please do not ask.

No Grade Changes. I do not change grades except in the case that I or my TA have made a computational error. No other reason will be considered, regardless of how much you “need” a certain grade, etc. On the other hand, if you feel your points have been calculated incorrectly, please do not hesitate to contact our TA ASAP with an explanation of your reasoning.

Syllabus changes. Changes to this syllabus may be made during the semester. Please be sure to check in on our Sakai site to keep up-to-date with any changes.