

Principles of Developmental Psychology
Rutgers University, New Brunswick; 01:830:271
Summer 2015; First Session (May 26 – July 2)
Tues 6-9:40, ONLINE
Thurs 6-9:40pm, IN CLASS: SEC 218

Dr. Linnea Dickson

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

In-Person Office Hours: by arrangement; Tillett 101

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Required Textbook: Santrock, J.W., Essentials of Life-Span Development 4th ed; (ebook is acceptable and is available when you register for Connect. See below.) If you would like a physical copy of the text, 3rd edition should be fine. Regardless of the book format you choose, you must buy access to Connect (see below).

Required Online Materials: Connect web-based (LearnSmart) assignments for our section:

<http://connect.mheducation.com/class/l-dickson-sum15-01830271b6>

You must buy access to Connect and register for this section (follow the link above). You can buy access online or through the bookstore. (Students using financial aid must buy access through the bookstore.)

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 17-chapter textbook in 6 weeks! If you do not have the time and inclination to do a great deal of reading this is not the course for you.

COURSE GOALS

Upon successful completion of this course

*Students will recognize the major physical, cognitive and socio-emotional 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 (6:00pm) by working online 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. **You must be present and contributing during the Tues night group work session** to receive points toward your Individual GroupWork grade. See below for more information.

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

LearnSmart assignments: For each chapter of the textbook you are required to complete a LearnSmart assignment. LearnSmart assignments consist 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.

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 Resources on our Sakai course site). Your posts and responses to the weekly discussions are worth 3 points per week, for a total of 18% of your course grade.

GroupWork Chat. You are required to work online during the Tues evening “online” portion of our class (6-9:40pm) with your groupmates on the weekly project. You will have a chance during our first face-to-face meeting to decide on what tool(s) you will use to work online together. Since all Rutgers students have access to ScarletApps (through their scarletmail account) I suggest you use googledocs to work together on your projects. We will discuss this more during our first class. You may also choose to set up additional/alternate time(s) with your groupmates.

Your contributions to the groupwork discussions in preparation for the Groupwork Project constitute the Individual Online portion of your GroupWork grade. **You must be present and contributing during the Tues night group work session** to receive points toward your Individual GroupWork grade. Failure to contribute substantially during GroupWork discussions/preparations may also cause you to forfeit Project Content points. You must participate in the presentation (during Thurs’ class) to receive GroupWork presentation points.

* **Chatroom.** Use the Sakai 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 chatroom (though I suggest that you do make use of it). Even if you don’t plan on posting in the Sakai 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	2%
LearnSmarts.....	15%
Threaded Discussion Participation	18%
Individual GroupWork contribution	15%
GroupWork Project Content	20%
GroupWork Presentation	10%
Final Exam (Lecture notes).....	20%

Extra Credit Opportunities

- Participate in research conducted by Psychology Dept. researchers: variable
- Complete more than 15 LearnSmart assignments (by their due date): 1% each (2% max)
- Complete Lecture Study Guides by due date (answers must be hand written): 0.5% each (3% max)
 - Study Guides 1-3 due Thurs 6/18
 - Study Guides 5 & 6 due Thurs 7/2
- No other extra credit will be offered.

SCHEDULE

Week 1: Introduction and Foundations

Reading: Textbook chapters 1 and 2.

Online:

Sakai: Sign on to our Sakai course site using your Rutgers netID. Familiarize yourself with the site. Notice that there is a tab (left side of screen) for each week of the course. You can find links to almost everything you need for each week under these tabs. Check under WEEK 1. 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 **11:59pm Friday** – you must complete it (with a score of 100%) to earn credit for it.

Textbook assessments: Register for Connect for our course and textbook. Enroll in our section by following this link <http://connect.mheducation.com/class/1-dickson-sum15-01830271b6>. Complete **LearnSmart** assignment for **chapters 1 and 2** by **11:59pm Fri**. See more complete instructions above.

Threaded Discussion: Post a response to **both** topics in the “Getting to know each other” Discussion by **11:59pm Tues night** and respond to **2** of your classmates by **11:59pm Wed night**. Make sure you review the Guidelines for Threaded Discussions tab (under Resources in our course site) before you post.

Tues Chat: Say “Hello”: On **Tuesday** at the beginning of our scheduled class time (**6:00pm**) sign on to our Sakai site and enter the Chatroom. I’ll be there. Introduce yourself and ask me any questions you may have about the course. No GroupWork Project this week.

In Class (Thursday)

Introduction

Lecture

Group Work

Week 2: Infant & Toddler Years

Reading: Textbook chapters 3-5

Online

Textbook assessment: Complete **LearnSmart** assignment for **chapter 3 by 5:00pm Tues and chapters 4 and 5 by 11:59pm Fri.**

Threaded Discussion: Breast Feeding. Post by **11:59p Mon night**, and respond to 2 classmates by **11:59p 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)

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	ONLINE		Thursday In Class	
1. History and Foundations	Ch 1-2	May 26	*Sign on to Sakai *Register for Connect Syllabus quiz Discussion: Get to know each other (post by 11:59pm Tues night; responses by 11:59pm Wed night) GroupChat (Tues 6:00pm): Say Hello Chs 1&2 LearnSmarts due by 11:59pm FRI .	May 28	
2. Infant & Toddler Years	Ch 3-5	June 2	Discussion: Breastfeeding (post by 11:59pm Mon night; responses by midnight 11:59pm Wed night) GroupChat (Tues 6:00pm) Ch 3 LearnSmart due by 5pm TUE ; Ch 4&5 due 11:59pm FRI	June 4	Group project: Design a toy
3. Middle & Late Childhood	Ch 6-8	June 9	Discussion: Parenting Styles (post by 11:59pm Mon ; responses by 11:59pm Wed) GroupChat (Tues 6:00pm) Ch6 LS due by Tues 5 pm; Chs. 7&8 LS due 11:59pm Fri	June 11	Group project: Various

Week	Readings	Tuesday ONLINE		Thursday In Class	
4. Adolescence	Ch 9-11	June 16	Discussion: Crowd Membership (post by 11:59pm Mon; responses by 11:59 Wed) GroupChat (Tues 6:00) Ch 9 LS due 5pm Tues ; Chs 10&11 LS due 11:59pm Fri	June 18	Group project: Various Study Guides 1-3 due (EC)
5. Early & Middle Adulthood	Ch 12-14	June 23	Discussion: Cohabitation (post by 11:59pm Mon; responses by 11:59pm Wed) GroupChat (Tues 6:00) Ch 12 LS due 5pm Tues ; Chs 13&14 LS due 11:59pm Fri	June 25	Group project: Various
6. Late Adulthood and End of Life	Ch 15-17	June 30	Discussion: Older Adults in the Media (post by 11:59pm Mon ; responses by 11:59pm Wed) GroupChat (Tues 6:00) Ch 15 LS due 5pm Tues ; Chs 16&17 LS due 5pm THURS	July 2	Group project: Various Study Guides 5&6 due (EC) FINAL EXAM (Lecture notes only)