

**SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
PSYCHOLOGY 374 - DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY
FALL 2008**

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Office Hours: Monday – Friday 1—4 p.m. and by appointment

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

In this course, students will be able to examine psychological theories and research to describe, understand, and explain human development from conception to death. Students will also explore the lifelong interaction between nature and nurture. Students will also learn the specific issues we face as we progress through life, such as acquisition of emotional, physical, cognitive, and moral skills and the changing balance between dependence and interdependence as we move from infancy to adolescence, adulthood, and later life.

TEXTBOOK: (Required)

Berk, L. E. (2007). *Development through the lifespan* (4th ed.). Pearson/Allyn & Bacon.

COURSE FORMAT:

Class will consist of lecture and discussion. Students are strongly encouraged to actively participate in class through discussion and to keep up with their textbook readings (please refer to the tentative course outline for reading assignments). Students will be assigned a project that will be presented to the class during scheduled presentation times.

EXAMS:

There will be four in-class exams, three exams and a final exam. The exams will consist of fifty multiple-choice questions. Exam questions will come from lecture material and textbook material, which may or may not have been covered in class. Therefore, it is very important that you read the assigned readings for each exam. The tentative outline indicates which chapters will comprise each exam, tentative exam dates, and other important dates. The final exam will consist of fifty multiple-choice questions, and it will not be comprehensive; it will only cover the material presented after the third exam. Course grades will be determined as a percentage of the total points available.

YOU WILL NEED SCANTRONS (GREEN) AND A No. 2 PENCIL FOR EACH EXAM

EXAM POLICY: If you show up to take a scheduled class exam more than ten (10) minutes after the beginning of the exam, you will not be allowed to take the exam and will have to take a make-up exam.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION:

Exams (3 @ 100 points each)	300
Final Exam (100 points)	100
Individual Presentation	50
Attendance	<u>50</u>
	500

GRADING SCALE:

A = 90-100%
B = 80-89%
C = 70-79%
D = 60-69%
F = below 60%

INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATION:

Presentation details will be provided on a separate handout.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance is required and it counts toward your final grade. Please attend class regularly as exam questions come partly from class lectures and discussion. Any student who exceeds six (6) absences (excused or unexcused) will be asked to withdraw from the class. *If you are late and the attendance sheet has been passed around, you will NOT have an opportunity to sign in and will be counted absent for that class period.*

MAKE-UP EXAMS:

Make-up exams will not be given unless you have a legitimate and valid excuse (e.g., family emergency, illness, and hospitalization). Please let me know in advance if you will miss an exam. If you fail to let me know in advance that you will be missing an exam (even if you have a valid excuse), you will not be allowed to make up that exam. *All make-up exams will consist solely of essay questions.*

ALL MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE ADMINISTERED ON THE DAY OF THE FINAL EXAM (NO EXCEPTIONS).

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. *See Student Syllabus Guidelines* for further information.

CLASSROOM RULES OF CONDUCT:

Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students are to treat faculty and students with respect. **Students are to turn off all cell phones while in the classroom. Under no circumstances are cell phones or any electronic devices (including text messaging) to be used or seen during times of examination.** Students may tape record lectures provided they do not disturb other students in the process.

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS:

Students are allowed to miss class and other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Students remain responsible for all work. *See Student Syllabus Guidelines.*

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY:

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. *See Student Syllabus Guidelines.*

VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM:

Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

*****NOTE: PROFESSOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE CHANGES TO THIS SYLLABUS*****

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE

<u>WEEK</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>TEXT CHAPTER</u>
August 25, 2008	Introductions and Review of syllabus	
September 1, 2008	9/1—LABOR DAY HOLIDAY History, Theory and Research Strategies	1
September 8, 2008	Biological Foundations	2
September 15, 2008	Prenatal Development and Birth ; 9/18—EXAM 1 (CHAPTERS 1 – 3)	3
September 22, 2008	Physical Development in Infancy	4
September 29, 2008	Cognitive Development in Infancy	5
October 6, 2008	Socioemotional Development in Infancy	6
October 13, 2008	Physical and Cognitive Dev. in Early Childhood	7
October 20, 2008	SE Development in Early Childhood; 10/23—EXAM 2 (CHAPTERS 4-8)	8
October 27, 2008	Physical and Cognitive Development in Middle Childhood	9
November 3, 2008	SE Development in Middle Childhood	10
November 10, 2008	Physical and Cognitive Dev. in Adolescence;	11
November 17, 2008	Socioemotional Development in Adolescence; 11/20—EXAM 3 (CHAPTERS 9-12)	12
November 24, 2008	Physical and Cognitive Dev. in Early Adulthood 11/26--11/28 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	13
December 1, 2008	Physical and Cognitive Dev. in Early Adulthood; Socioemotional Development in Early Adulthood	13 & 14
December 8, 2008	Physical and Cognitive Dev. in Middle Adulthood; Socioemotional Development in Middle Adulthood 12/12—STUDY DAY	15 & 16
December 15, 2008	FINAL EXAM WEEK (12/15-12/18)	