

Child Development

PSYC313 - DU

Instructor Information

Tanya Tavassolie, M.A.

Office: David King Hall 1032 (basement level, inside 1021)

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Phone: 703-993-4712

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 12:00-1:00pm (via phone or in person), or by appointment

Mailbox: located on the second floor of David King Hall, down the hall from the Undergrad Office

Required Textbook

Siegler, R., DeLoache, J., Eisenberg, N., & Saffron, J. (2011). *How children develop* (4th ed.). New York, NY: Worth Publishers.

Course Description and Goals

This course will acquaint students with the developmental journey of the child from conception to early adolescence. It will emphasize an empirical, theoretical, and applied approach to child development and will cover major topics including cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development. Developmental theorists such as Freud, Piaget, Erikson, Vygotsky, Bowlby, Skinner, and Bronfenbrenner will be covered. Note that this is not a course on parenting or abnormal development. The overall goals of this course are to: (1) Facilitate an understanding and appreciation for the complexity of child development, and (2) Foster critical consumers of empirical research.

Class Format

This class will be held entirely online. Information will be presented in PowerPoint lectures and assigned textbook readings. Students are responsible for understanding all of the information presented in both their textbook and PowerPoint lectures. For each of the chapters, students must complete an online chapter quiz (see below for more information regarding these quizzes) as well as discussion responses and other writing assignments. These assignments are designed to ensure that students both have an understanding of the core course content and apply them. These assignments will be due at specific dates throughout the semester (see Course Schedule at bottom of syllabus for a list of due dates). Although each of the quizzes, assignments, and projects for this course have specific final due dates, students are allowed to complete all of these in advance. Thus, the pace of this course is somewhat flexible.

Lecture Information and Videos

This course will deliver content via PowerPoint slides. These slides will all be available on Blackboard, and will include key terminology, important concepts, and more detailed explanations of difficult topics. Students are responsible for understanding all of the information presented in these slides as well as the notes sections of these slides (below each slide).

Students should use the textbook to supplement their knowledge and understanding of the information presented in these slides. If students are unsure about a specific concept, they should first

consult their textbook for more information regarding this topic. If they are still unsure about a topic, they should email the instructor.

There may be periodic videos posted throughout the semester. These videos will be based on the lectures for the week and will likely give important details about upcoming due dates and assignments. It is important to watch these videos to make sure you are staying on track with the course!

Course Requirements and Assignments

1. Chapter Quizzes – 50 points (10 quizzes, 5 points each)

These quizzes will be primarily based on materials from the PowerPoint Lectures, but also on other readings/videos from class. Students will only have **one** opportunity to complete this quiz, and once they submit their answers, their grades will be posted automatically to Blackboard. These quizzes will be multiple-choice, and are open-book/open note; however, there are time limits for the quizzes. You may NOT consult with other classmates about the quiz. Students will not be able to complete a quiz after midnight of the assigned due date under any circumstance! Students who fail to complete a chapter quiz in the appropriate amount of time will automatically receive a grade of 0%. There are 13 quizzes during the semester and you **drop your lowest THREE quizzes** therefore only 10 quizzes will count toward your final grade. Each quiz will be 10 questions and each quiz is worth 5 points. There are NO make-ups for quizzes.

2. Discussion Posts – 20 points (10 posts, 2 points each)

For each week, students must respond to a post on the Blackboard Discussion board that I post as the instructor. The post will be a question related to the chapter content, interesting article, or video/podcast related to class material. These posts can either be responses to other students' comments or a direct response to the overall question. There will be a total of 13 discussion posts and **you must respond to at least 10 of the posts** (like quizzes, 3 weeks will not count toward your final grade). Each response will be graded out of 2 points for a total of 20 points during the semester. Please see Blackboard for further instructions and the grading rubric. **Note:** You will be communicating with one another via the discussion board. It is likely that you will not always agree with the opinions of your fellow classmates. Disagreement is fine but you will need to respect others' views. Thus, personal attacks and derogatory comments will not be tolerated.

3. Article Critique – 15 points

You will critique a scholarly article. This will be worth 15 points, and should be 1.5-2 pages in length, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12pt font. *Late submissions will NOT be accepted.* You will review/summarize key points of the article, reflect on the findings, and relate it to your own experiences. See Blackboard for a list of possible articles to choose from, all of which will be available to download from Blackboard. A rubric and clear description of expectations can also be found on Blackboard. Electronic submissions will be accepted through Blackboard.

4. Toy Project – 15 points

Most toys made for children are assigned a suggested age rating (e.g., "For ages 4+"). Your assignment will be to find a toy (or two toys) in a store and make a **flyer** that evaluates how

developmentally appropriate it is for the age rating. You are not required to purchase the toy. Think of the flyer as either an advertisement for the toy or a PSA urging parents not to buy the toy for their kids. This project will be worth 15 points total. A rubric and clear description of expectations for this project can also be found on Blackboard. *Absolutely NO late submissions will be accepted.* Electronic submissions will be accepted through Blackboard.

Points for the Course

Assignment	Possible Points
Article critique – 15 points	15
Toy project – 15 points	15
Discussion posts – 2 points each x 10 (required)	20
Quizzes – 5 points each x 10 (required)	50
Total points	100

Grade Calculation

Grades will simply be calculated by the amount of total points earned in the course; since it is out of 100 points, your calculations will be easy. For example, if you get 80 points in the class, you have an 80%.

Grade Breakdown (these correspond to percentages)

A+	100+%	B+	89 – 87%	C+	79 – 77%	D	69 – 60%
A	100 – 93%	B	86 – 83%	C	76 – 73%	F	59% and below
A-	92 – 90%	B-	82 – 80%	C-	72 – 70%		

Honor Code

Students in this course are expected to behave at all times in a manner consistent with the GMU Honor System and Code. (<http://mason.gmu.edu/~montecin/plagiarism.htm>). Students are encouraged to study together as much as possible throughout the course, however, no assistance, sharing of information, or discussion of exam items or answers between students may take place. For all work, the name that appears on the paper must be the author. Violations of the Honor Code will not be tolerated in this course and will be immediately reported according to GMU procedures. The instructor reserves the right to use software to determine the extent to which the work is the student's. The instructor for this course reserves the right to enter a failing grade to any student found guilty of an honor code violation.

Psychological Services

Life is stressful and we all need a little support sometimes. Students are encouraged to contact Counseling & Psychological Services (caps.gmu.edu) for assistance with any kind of psychological/life problem or crisis situation. I can help with referrals for students with particular counseling needs so please feel free to talk with me for help with anything.

Disability/Other Issues

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 709-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

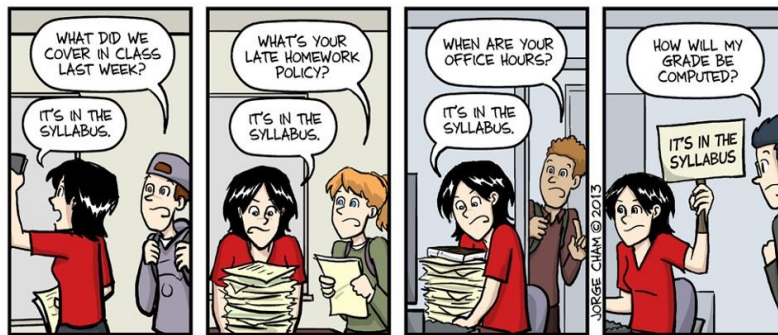
Official Communications via GMU E-mail

Mason uses electronic mail to provide official information to students. Examples include communications from course instructors, notices from the library, notices about academic standing, financial aid

information, class materials, assignments, questions, and instructor feedback. Students are responsible for the content of university communication sent to their mason e-mail account, and are required to activate that account and check it regularly. As a tip, please include your G-number and the course section in the subject of the email in all email correspondences with all instructors.

Disclaimer

The instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus and its content. Any changes will be announced orally and in writing.



IT'S IN THE SYLLABUS

This message brought to you by every instructor that ever lived.
WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

Please make sure you re-read the syllabus before asking questions about the policies, procedures, or format of the course. I spend a great deal of time writing the syllabus to make sure that it includes answers to most questions that you may have, so please do consult the syllabus before emailing me or the teaching assistant. As a general rule, you do NOT want to be the student that emails an instructor with a question that was answered in the syllabus.

Important Campus-Wide Dates

Martin Luther King Day (no classes)	Mon Jan 18
First day of classes ; last day to submit Domicile Reclassification Application; Payment Due Date; full semester waitlists removed	Tue Jan 19
Last day to add classes —all individualized section forms due Last day to drop with no tuition penalty	Tues Jan 26
Last day to drop with a 33% tuition penalty	Tues Feb 2
Final Drop Deadline (67% tuition penalty)	Fri Feb 19
Selective Withdrawal Period (undergraduate students only)	Mon Feb 22 – Fri Mar 25
Spring Break	Mon Mar 7 – Sun Mar 13
Last day of classes	Mon May 2
Reading Days	Tue May 3
Exam Period (beginning at 7:30 a.m.)	Wed May 64 – Wed May 11

Course Schedule

Day	Chapter	What's Due?
Week 1 Jan 18 – Jan 24	Chapter 1: Introduction to Child Development	Quiz 1 and discussion post due by 11:59pm Sunday, Jan 31
Week 2 Jan 25 – Jan 31	Chapter 2: Prenatal Development	Quiz 2 and discussion post due by 11:59pm Sunday, Jan 31
Week 3 Feb 1 – Feb 7	Chapter 3: Brain & Physical Development	Quiz 3 and discussion post due by 11:59pm Sunday, Feb 7
Week 4 Feb 8 – Feb 14	Chapter 4: Cognitive Development	Quiz 4 and discussion post due by 11:59pm Sunday, Feb 14
Week 5 Feb 15 – Feb 21	Chapter 5: Seeing, Thinking & Doing in Infancy	Quiz 5 and discussion post due by 11:59pm Sunday, Feb 21
Week 6 Feb 22 – Feb 28	Chapter 6: Language & Symbol Use	Quiz 6 and discussion post due by 11:59pm Sunday, Feb 28
Week 7 Feb 29 – Mar 6	Chapter 8: Intelligence and Academic Achievement	Quiz 7 and discussion post due by 11:59pm Sunday, Mar 6 Article Critique due!
Week 8 Mar 7 – Mar 13	Spring Break	Nothing due!!
Week 9 Mar 14 – Mar 20	Chapter 9: Social Development	Quiz 8 and discussion post due by 11:59pm Sunday, Mar 20
Week 10 Mar 21 – Mar 27	Chapter 10: Emotional Development	Quiz 9 and discussion post due by 11:59pm Sunday, Mar 27
Week 11 Mar 28 – Apr 3	Chapter 11: Attachment & Self	Quiz 10 and discussion post due by 11:59pm Sunday, Apr 3
Week 12 Apr 4 – Apr 10	No content! Finish your toy projects!	Toy project due by 11:59pm Sunday, Apr 10
Week 13 Apr 11 – Apr 17	Chapter 12: Family	Quiz 11 and discussion post due by 11:59pm Sunday, Apr 17
Week 14 Apr 18 – Apr 24	Chapter 13: Peer Relationships	Quiz 12 and discussion post due by 11:59pm Sunday, Apr 24
Week 15 Apr 25 – May 1	Chapter 15: Gender Development	Quiz 13 and discussion post due by 11:59pm Sunday, May 1

Have a great summer!