

Developmental Psychology (809-188)

Syllabus

Fall 2009

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Welcome to Developmental Psychology! My name is Dr. Krause. Everyday examples of psychology, and especially development, abound! This course offers information that will help you to better understand your own development and the development of those around you. Many concepts addressed in this class are readily applied to your own and others' development. My belief is that you will get out of this course what you put into it. Please don't be afraid to approach me in or outside of class with questions or concerns.

Contacting the Instructor: You may stop by my office, call me by telephone, or email me. If you choose to email, please be aware that you must use your MSTC email account. Messages received from other email accounts are quarantined by our system. Further, instructors are asked not to open emails from unknown sources.

Textbook: Santrock's *Life-Span Development 11/e* (2008). There is a CD-Rom entitled, *Life Map*, that accompanies your text.

Much of the text is covered in this course. You are expected to be prepared for class discussions and activities by doing the reading **before** class.

Course Description: Developmental psychology is the study of human development throughout the lifespan. This course explores developmental theory and research with an emphasis on the interactive nature of the biological, cognitive, and psychosocial changes that affect the individual from conception to death. Application activities and critical thinking skills will enable students to gain an increased knowledge and understanding of themselves and others.

A variety of teaching methods will be utilized in this course, including lecture, discussion, videos, written assignments, group activities, and exams.

Competencies: Upon completion of this course, it is expected that you will be able to:

1. analyze developmental perspectives.
2. apply research methodology.
3. identify and compare theoretical frameworks.
4. evaluate the integration of genetics and environmental influences on development.
5. analyze developmental issues related to physical/biological changes across the lifespan.
6. analyze developmental issues related to cognitive changes across the lifespan.
7. analyze developmental issues related to psychological/emotional changes across the lifespan.
8. analyze developmental issues related to social changes across the lifespan.
9. examine issues surrounding death and dying.

Core Abilities: MSTC has identified four Core Abilities, many of which are addressed in this course, that all students should be able to demonstrate before graduating:

1. Act with integrity
2. Communicate effectively
3. Demonstrate effective critical and creative thinking
4. Demonstrate global and social awareness

Attendance: Attendance is **mandatory** and **recorded at every class period**. Being prompt in your attendance shows responsibility and respect for others. Please be aware that being tardy and sleeping in class will count as an absence.

The General Education Division policy states that missing a minimum of 6 class hours (i.e., 2 class periods) is grounds for being dropped from the class roster. This means that you need to be present for 90% of the course hours. Please keep this in mind so that you do not find yourself in a position where you may be dropped. In addition, those who attend class regularly tend to perform well on exams and written work.

Having **perfect attendance or missing up to two class hours** will earn you a **bonus 1%** (of the total points possible) added to your final course grade. Being in class pays off! It would be great to see everyone work towards receiving the bonus!

ADA Statement: If you know you have a recognized disability, or suspect that you might have one, it is your responsibility to identify yourself as soon as possible to the Disability Services staff in Student Services (Patti Lloyd). Course standards will not be lowered, but various kinds of accommodations are available to you. Adequate and reasonable time will be required to develop and provide appropriate accommodations, so contact Disability Services as soon as possible. It is MSTC's goal to assist you in your educational plan.

Course Grading: Your course grade will be determined by total points earned. Letter grades will be assigned based on the following averages:

93-100	A
90-92.9	A-
88-89.9	B+
83-87.9	B
80-82.9	B-
78-79.9	C+
73-77.9	C
70-72.9	C-
68-69.9	D+
63-67.9	D
62 and below	F

Plan to **earn** the grade that you wish to receive. Seek assistance early to achieve your goal. At this point, no extra credit opportunities are planned.

Exams: **Exams must be taken on the day they are scheduled.** Please make requests to take an exam at a time other than your assigned time only under legitimate and extenuating circumstances (e.g., death of a family member, extreme illness). If you request to take an exam at another time, you must contact me **prior** to the exam. **If you fail to speak with me prior to missing an exam, this will result in an immediate grade of 0 points.**

Written Assignments: For full credit, you must turn in a **hard copy** of your written assignments on the day they are due. Assignments that are late will automatically have 10% of points deducted from them for each working day that they are late, up to three days. Once an assignment is three working days late, it will no longer be accepted and you will receive a grade of 0 for the work. Unless there is a school holiday, working days are defined as Monday through Friday.

Participation Points: Please keep in mind that you are establishing professional behavior that will benefit you in the work world while you are here at MSTC. A record of regular attendance and appropriate participation in class is a large part of your professional behavior. Showing respect towards others is a must in this course. You will be given a maximum of 40 attendance and participation points in this course if you: 1.) attend all class sessions; 2.) show an interest in the material; 3.) participate in group activities; and 4.) contribute meaningfully (but not excessively) to discussions. Each of these four categories is worth 10 points toward the possible 40 points that you may earn. You will not fare well on this portion of your grade if your behavior is disruptive or disrespectful (e.g., responding to cell phone calls, texting during class, talking to one's neighbor, making disrespectful remarks to instructor or peers, sleeping, etc.).

Academic Integrity: The MSTC board, administration, faculty, and staff believe that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental to the mission of higher education. All students are expected to maintain and promote the highest standards of personal honesty and professional integrity. These standards apply to all examinations, assigned work, and projects. Therefore, a student who is found to have been dishonest, fraudulent, or deceptive in the completion of work or is willing to help others to be so; or who plagiarizes (presents the work of others as his or her own) is subject to disciplinary action up to and including suspension.

Please silence your cell phone prior to the start of class. Do not check messages during class. Do not text message during class.

Let's try to make this a fun and exciting journey through the life-span!