**PSYCHOLOGY 364 – 07  LIFE-SPAN DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY**

**Fall 2014  TTH 4-5:15 PM  ASH 2302**

**Instructor:** Jing Chen, Ph.D.  
**Phone:** 331-2867 (office)  
**Office:** ASH 2207  
**E-mail:** chenj@gvsu.edu  
**Phone:** 331-2195 (Psychology Department)

**Office hours:** Tuesdays & Thursdays 1-2:25pm or by appointment.


**Blackboard Website:** [http://mybb.gvsu.edu](http://mybb.gvsu.edu)

I will use the Blackboard to post announcements, chapter outlines, discussion questions, assignments, links to reserved readings and relevant websites, and exam scores.

**Course Description:**

This survey course will focus on the normal physical, cognitive, psycho/social development of humans throughout their life spans. Major theories and important research findings on various aspects of human development will be discussed. The strengths and weaknesses of these developmental theories will also be critically evaluated.

Prerequisite: Psychology 101.

**Course Objectives:**

This course will help you develop an appreciation for the necessity, strengths, and weaknesses of a variety of theoretical perspectives on human development, understand the importance of scientific psychological approach to the conceptualization and understanding of the developing mind, and become familiar with research findings that depict the basic trends in physical, cognitive, and psychosocial development.

**Course Outcome Measures:**

Your final grade will be based on the total number of points that you accrue on two mid-term exams, a final exam, quizzes & discussions, and one written assignment.

**Exams:** There will be two mid-term exams and a final exam. The exams will consist of multiple-choice questions and short answer questions drawn from lectures, readings, assignments, and in-class activities. The exams are designed to assess your understanding of the material, rather than superficial memorization. To answer examination questions correctly, you will have to understand the material well enough to apply it to new problems.

**Quizzes, Discussions, & Assignments:** Quizzes and discussions will be scheduled during regular class time throughout the semester. Some assignments related to the readings may require you to complete at home. All of the quizzes, discussions, assignments will be graded. The lowest score will be dropped. The quizzes and homework assignments will cover assigned readings to prepare you for the lectures and help you keep up with the pace of this course. The in-class discussions will provide you with opportunities to express your ideas clearly in front of others. Any late homework will be marked down 50% (no late work will be accepted one week after its due date). **I will NOT accept anything that is sent through an email attachment.**
Course project/Paper: You will work with two other students on a project that allows you to investigate an aspect of development in people around you. Each of you will be required to test or interview at least two individuals from a specific age group. The results from these tests or interviews will be integrated, examined, and discussed in the contexts of scientific research in your final paper. Specific instructions and due date will be posted on the Blackboard. A late paper will be marked down 50%. No email attachment of the paper will be accepted.

Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam #1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam #2</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper Project</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes/Discussions</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>500</td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Final Grade:

- A: 465-500
- A-: 450-464
- B+: 434-449
- B: 415-433
- B-: 400-414
- C+: 384-399
- C: 365-383
- C-: 350-364
- D+: 334-349
- D: 300-333
- F: <300

Make-up exams:

Make-up exams will not be given unless there is a family emergency or a severe personal health problem. In such cases, please notify me by phone or email BEFORE the scheduled exam time. You also need to provide me with proper documentation (e.g., a doctor’s note). Otherwise, no make-up exam will be arranged for you. Things such as attending a wedding or having a plane ticket booked on the exam day do not count as family emergencies. Make-up exams will be in a different format (e.g., 6 – 9 essay questions covering the same amount of material as the regular exam does). No exams will be given prior to the scheduled date.

Class Attendance:

You are expected to attend all classes even though attendance will not be taken. You are responsible for all materials presented in class. Attending lectures, participating in group discussions, and reading assigned material before and after class are crucial to getting a good grade and actually learning something from this class. If you are unable to attend class, make sure to find out what has been covered in class.

Class Courtesy:

A respectful and friendly atmosphere in the classroom is important for all of us. Without it, it would be difficult for each of us to freely express our ideas and to feel comfortable to learn and to teach. Let’s work together to create an environment that truly nurtures learning.

Internet surfing and texting are not allowed during class.

Your cell phone needs to be stored completely out of sight during the entire class period.
Emails:
The best way to communicate with me is through email. Please put PSY364 and your name in the subject line. Otherwise, I may delete your email without reading it.

Withdraws:
The last day you can withdraw from this class with a “W” is October 24, 5pm.

Office Hours:
You are strongly encouraged to drop by my office during my office hours if you have any questions, confusions, concerns, or suggestions about this course. If your schedule conflicts with my regular office hours, please let me know and I will schedule an alternative time to meet with you. If you need special assistance, please come to see me at the beginning of the semester.

Academic Honesty:
Violations of the standards of Academic Honesty will be met with severe penalties. In addition to referral to the appropriate university committee, anyone known to be plagiarizing material or copying from another person’s exam will receive a grade of zero on that assignment or exam. All of the assignments should be done individually unless I announce it otherwise. If I found two identical pieces of work, both of you will not receive credits for that assignment.
### Course Schedule & Reading Assignments*:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8/26, 8/28</td>
<td>Basic Issues</td>
<td>Ch. 1  Reserve #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>9/4</td>
<td>Research Methods</td>
<td>Ch. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>9/9, 9/11</td>
<td>Research Methods, Developmental Theories</td>
<td>Ch. 1 2 Reserve #2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>9/16, 9/18</td>
<td>Developmental Theories, Prenatal Development</td>
<td>Ch. 2 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>9/23, 9/25</td>
<td>Prenatal Development, Brain Development</td>
<td>Ch. 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>9/30, 10/2</td>
<td>Physical &amp; Perceptual Development</td>
<td>Ch. 5 6 Reserve #4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>10/7, 10/9</td>
<td>Physical &amp; Perceptual Development</td>
<td>Ch. 5 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>10/14, 10/16</td>
<td>Cognition</td>
<td>Ch. 7 Reserve #5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10/21, 10/23</td>
<td>Cognition</td>
<td>Ch. 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>10/28, 10/30</td>
<td>Memory and Information Processing</td>
<td>Ch. 8 Reserve #7 &amp;8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>11/4, 11/6</td>
<td>Memory and Information Processing</td>
<td>Ch. 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>11/11, 11/13</td>
<td>Language Development</td>
<td>Ch. 10 Reserve #9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>11/18, 11/20</td>
<td>Self and Personality, Gender Development</td>
<td>Ch. 11 Reserve #10 &amp;11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>11/25</td>
<td>Attachment and Social Relationships</td>
<td>Ch. 14 Reserve #12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>12/2, 12/4</td>
<td>Theories of Aging, Death and Dying</td>
<td>Ch. 17 Reserve #13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Final Exam: Tuesday, December 11, 4-5:50pm.**

- This schedule is tentative and subject to change. However, we will try to follow it as closely as possible.
**Readings on Course Reserves:**  [https://gvsu.ares.atlas-sys.com](https://gvsu.ares.atlas-sys.com)


