

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

PSY 301.08 COURSE SYLLABUS FALL 2025 - 10:00-11:15AM ASH 1310

This syllabus is subject to change. Changes (if any) will be announced in class.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Tessa M. Jordan, Ph.D.

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Email is the best way to contact me.

Please put **“Psych 301.08”** in the subject line of your email.

OFFICE HOURS

Office Location: Au Sable Hall 2127

Tuesdays: 1-2pm

Thursdays: 11:30am-12:30pm

Or by appointment / zoom option

Please email me to set up an appointment outside of office hours.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an overview of the theories, methods, and processes of child development. We begin with an introduction to developmental science, followed by discussion of prenatal development and the neonate and then proceed to cover the domains of physical, emotional, social, and cognitive development that take place over the course of infancy and childhood. The approach to the course topics is scientific, with an emphasis on research finding in developmental psychology. An appreciation for cultural diversity is an integral part of this course and will be addressed in the lectures and video segments. The class format is predominantly lecture-based, but questions/comments are encouraged.

Course Objectives:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the basic concepts and theoretical paradigms that direct the field of Developmental Psychology.
- Describe, and think critically about, changes within the developing person from conception to adolescence.
- Discuss both traditional and current explanations for trends in children’s physical, cognitive, and social/emotional growth.
- Understand the scientific method and apply it to the understanding of child behavior and development.
- Apply knowledge regarding child development to both observations of children and to interactions with children.

REQUIRED E-TEXT

This course is participating in **GVSU Save program**. Your required course materials will be available prior to the first day of class through your BlackBoard account. You will be charged for the course materials via your GVSU student account and a “GVSU SAVE Charge” will appear on your student bill. However, if you decide you don’t want to participate, you will need to Opt-Out of the program and be sure you obtain the material on your own. To Opt-Out just click on the link in your BlackBoard course page and follow the instructions. **YOU MUST OPT-OUT BY MIDNIGHT ON FRIDAY, SEPT 6th.** Your student account will be refunded if you Opt-Out by this date.

In this course we will use Santrock, J. W. (2024). *Children, 15th Edition*. McGraw Hill Publishers but not in the form of a printed textbook. Instead, you will have access to a digital version of the book on the McGraw-Hill Education Connect[®] online. Connect uses technology that adapts content to your skill level to make more-efficient use of your study time and create a more-effective reading experience.

CONNECT READING ASSIGNMENTS

You will have the opportunity to complete Connect Reading Assignments week each throughout the semester for a total of **40 points**. First, you need to register for Connect. Then you can access the Weekly Connect Reading Assignments from Blackboard.

Assignments will open each Friday at 5:00pm ET and will close the following Friday at 5:00pm ET.

There are no make-up opportunities for Connect Reading Assignments. Late Assignments are not accepted and will receive a zero.

Register for Connect

- Click on the first Connect Reading Assignment - found on BB in Week 1
- Create a new account or login with an existing Connect account.
- Use your GVSU username and GVSU email password when registering.

Once you have registered for Connect, **access all Connect assignments from Blackboard.**

Please note: After you register, you will have the option to purchase a low-cost print-version of the text through Connect. This is optional. If you choose to purchase a copy, a full-color, loose-leaf version will be shipped to you.

Connect Technical Support: If you are having trouble registering for or accessing Connect, please contact McGraw-Hill Education’s Customer Support. Live chat, email, and phone support are available 7 days a week. **Website: www.mhhe.com/support | Phone: (800) 331-5094 Hours (EST)**

ATTENDANCE

I want you to come to every class period so you can get the most out of this learning experience and be prepared to successfully complete this course. Therefore, you can earn points just by coming to class. Throughout the semester there will be opportunities to sign-in. **To earn the full 50 Attendance Points, you need to be present and sign-in at the start of class.** Advanced notice of sign-in dates will not be given and there is no make-up opportunity for missed attendance, unless it's a GV excused absence: <http://www.gvsu.edu/coursepolicies/>

OBSERVATION PROJECT

The study of developmental psychology is greatly enhanced by the opportunity to observe actual children and conduct informal research. Therefore, you will have the opportunity to complete assessments with a child (5 to 15 years old) and write an observation paper. More information regarding this project will be discussed in class and posted on Blackboard. The entire Observation Project is worth **100 points**. Transcript, consent form, and photo are due at the start of class on **Tuesday, Oct. 23rd** (turn in printed copies), **5 points**. The Final Paper is due at **9:00pm on MONDAY, November 24th** (upload on Blackboard), **95 points**. Please note: Late papers will receive -5% per day late.

EXAMS

Exams (150 points total): Three exams will be given covering material presented in the lectures. All of the exams are *noncumulative*. Exams will consist of objective questions in multiple choice format. Each exam is worth **50 points**.

*Working with the provided Lecture Study Guides, and reviewing your prior exams during office hours, will help you prepare for exams.

Make up exams Occasionally there are legitimate reasons for missing an exam. I will, however, allow you to take a make-up exam ONLY if you inform me 48 hours in advance that you will have to miss the exam. If you become extremely sick or encounter some other emergency on the day of the exam, I must be notified by email within 12 hours of the scheduled exam time and you will need to show some verification (e.g., a note from your physician, an accident report, etc.). *Missed exams or failure to comply with these policies will result in a zero on the exam.*

GRADING

Exams 1, 2, & 3 are worth 50 points each (3X50=150), Connect Reading Assignments are worth 40 a total of points, Attendance points are worth a total of 50 points, and the Observation Project is worth 100 points. Thus, the total number of points for the class is 340. **Grades will not be curved.** Based on your cumulative percent of point earned, the following grades will be assigned (see grade scale).

GRADE SCALE

<u>Percent</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>
94%-100%	A	77%-79%	C+
90%-93%	A-	74%-76%	C
87%-89%	B+	70%-73%	C-
84%-86%	B	67%-69%	D+
80%-83%	B-	64%-66%	D
		< 64%	F

HOW TO SUCCEED IN THIS COURSE

- **Read!** Complete the Connect Reading Assignment associated with each lecture *before* the lecture is given. This will provide you with a broader context for understanding the material presented in class. Failure to complete Connect Reading Assignments will substantially lower your grade in the course.
- **Attend Each Class!** To get the most out of each class period, come to class ready to learn and engage with the material. Missing class will substantially lower your grade in the course.
- **Take Good Notes!** While in-class, fill-out your Lecture Outline, take additional notes, and make note of examples given in class. The Lecture Outlines are intended as a guide only. Filled-in Lecture Outlines alone will not provide you with all the necessary material to succeed in this course. Additional lecture notes will be essential when you study for the exams.
- **Prepare for Exams Well in Advance!** You should re-read your lecture notes each day after class and review material often. Each week you should work with the lecture review study guide. If you wait until the last minute to begin preparing for an exam, you are unlikely to perform as well.
- **Communicate with me!** Email me, come by office hours, or make an appointment to meet with me if you need to discuss anything pertaining to this course. I enjoy meeting with students and am here to help!

COURSE POLICES

This course is subject to the GVSU policies listed at <http://www.gvsu.edu/coursepolicies/>

Accommodation of Learning Disabilities/Special Needs: Disability: If you have a learning, physical or other disability that would impact your ability to master the material in this course and/or take the exams as described above, please contact GVSU's Disability Support Services (DSS) at 616-331-2490 or <http://www.gvsu.edu/dsr/> to arrange for special accommodations.

Withdrawal: In accordance with University regulations, students withdrawing by Nov 7th 5:00pm will be assigned a grade of W (withdrawal). Students withdrawing after the deadline to withdraw will be assigned a letter grade based on their performance in the class. *Note: It is your responsibility to drop yourself from this class.*

COURSE POLICES COTINUED

Incomplete: Under special circumstances, a grade of Incomplete (I) can be granted. See me as soon as possible to arrange this and provide me with written documentation of why the course could not be completed. Note that an Incomplete grade must be completed by the end of the next academic semester, or is automatically converted to an F. An Incomplete will not be given for falling behind in the course or wanting to repeat the course for a better grade.

Integrity of Scholarship and Grades: All academic work will be done by the student to whom it was assigned. Anyone caught cheating (e.g., procuring, providing or accepting any materials which contain questions or answers to any exam or assignment, submitting work that has been previously graded) or plagiarizing (taking ideas or material from another source for either written or oral presentation without acknowledging the original source) will be dropped from the course, given an F, and referred to the University for further action. Cheating is a serious violation of academic integrity. For more information on academic honesty please see the GVSU student code.

In-Class Behavior: It is very important to minimize disruptions and to show respect and consideration for other students as well as the academic process. For this reason, please get to class on time, and once the lecture starts, please refrain from talking, texting, reading, or sleeping. When you come to class, please be prepared to actively listen and take notes. If you need to leave class early, please sit near an exit and leave quietly.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Psych Friends Peer-to-Peer Mentors are trained, upper-level psychology and behavioral neuroscience students ready to help you succeed. They offer peer support in areas like:

- Study strategies & time management
- Exam preparation & reflection
- Understanding PSY/BNS major requirements
- Career & graduate school planning
- Student well-being

Follow us on Instagram @gvsu.psychfriends and schedule your online or in-person meeting today at gvsu.edu/navigate!

Meijer Writing Center: To assist you with any writing project, <http://www.gvsu.edu/wc/> or Call 331-2922.

Tutoring Center: Tutoring Center can assist with most courses and academic writing assignments. Visit <http://www.gvsu.edu/tc/>

Guardian Mobile Safety App: Creates a two-way connection between you and the campus police www.gvsu.edu/gvpd/guardain.

GVSU Counseling Center: no cost to currently registered GVSU students. Seminars and events, online self-help tools, and consultation/referral are just a few of the additional services we provide to the GVSU community. <https://www.gvsu.edu/counsel/>

Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship (OURS): provides support for undergraduates to pursue the research and creative practice in their discipline. <https://www.gvsu.edu/ours/>

Study Abroad: <https://www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad/> There are programs in every region of the world!

Career Center: Interested in exploring careers and majors? Interested in finding an Internship or job? Need help with your resume and cover letter? Contact GVSU's Career Center <https://www.gvsu.edu/careers/>

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Lecture #	Lecture Topic	Connect Reading Assignment
Week 1		Review Syllabus, Connect, & Ultra	
	1a	Introduction to Developmental Science	1. Introduction
Week 2	1a	Introduction to Developmental Science Continued	
	1b	Research Methods	2. Research Methods
Week 3		<i>Discuss Observation Paper / How To Conduction Assessments</i>	
	2	Prenatal Development	3. Prenatal Dev
Week 4	3	The role of Genes & Environment in Development	4. Gene Environment Interaction
	3	Role of Genes and Env continued - Behavior Genetics	
Week 5	4	Infant Brain Development	5. Brain & Motor Dev
	5	Infant Motor Development	
Week 6	6	Infant Perceptual Development	6. Perceptual Dev
		Exam 1 Lectures 1-6 THURSDAY Oct 2nd	
Week 7	7a	Infant Socioemotional Development	7. Socioemotional Dev Infancy
Week 8	8	Attachment Theory	8. Socioemotional - Attachment
		Early Childhood Socioemotional Development	
Week 8	9	Fall Break no class Tuesday Oct 21st	No Connect Assignments due
		<i>Moral Development (Obs. Project)</i>	9. Morality Dev
		<i>Transcript, Consent form, & Photo due at start of class Thurs 23rd</i>	
Week 10	10	<i>Self-Concept Development (Obs. Project)</i>	10. Self Concept Dev
		Exam 2 Lectures 7-11 THURSDAY Oct 30th	
Week 11		<i>Discuss Observation Paper</i>	
	11a	Cognitive Development in Infancy	11. Cog Dev Infancy - Piaget
Week 12	12b	<i>Cognitive Development in Early Childhood (Obs. Project)</i>	11. Cog Dev in Childhood - Piaget
	12c	<i>Cog Dev in Middle Chldhd & Adolescence (Obs. Project)</i>	12. Cog Dev in Adolescence - Piaget
Week 13	13	Sociocultural Theory of Cognitive Dev - Vygotsky	13. Vygotsky & Information Processing
	14	Information Processing Theory of Cognitive Development	
Week 14		Observation Paper due by 5:00pm ET Monday Nov 24th via BB	
		Thanksgiving Break - no class Thursday 27th	
Week 15	15	Infant Language Development	14. Language Dev
Finals Week		Exam 3 Lectures 12-15 Thursday Dec 11 10:00 to 11:15am	