

PSY K201 Life Span Development

Instructor: Alison America

Office Location: No office; meet in the classroom

Office Hours: before and after class

Email: alisonamerica@hotmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/LifeSpanDevelopment (note: you do not need a facebook account to view content, just copy and paste the web address into your browsers URL)

Course Description

This upper level course provides an overview of the physical, emotional, social and cognitive development of humans from birth to death. There is an emphasis on distinct periods such as development of the fetus, infancy, childhood, adolescence, and the phases of adulthood.

Learning Objectives

The course investigates the numerous facets of growth which contribute to an integrated, whole person as well as the developmental problems faced by individuals moving toward maturity and through adulthood. We will explore the manner in which classic theories and contemporary data inform our knowledge of human development. You may use personal experience to evaluate theories. You will discover the manner in which physical, cognitive and social factors interact to affect growth. You will take a research-based approach to all aspects of development, examine societal influences and cross-cultural perspectives. You may find this course relevant to your personal growth and helpful in understanding your family, friends and those with whom you work. The course emphasizes scientific reasoning skills, written communication, questioning, and collaborative learning. Tenacity, pacing yourself and evaluative thinking are necessary.

Class time will be used in combinations of: debate, film, didactic lecture, writing, Internet exploration, and small group work. You need to keep abreast of global, national and local news as such events are often discussed in light of persons' psychological functioning. Learning is not a spectator sport. The goal is active knowledge construction. You are encouraged to ask questions about what you are learning, write about it, relate it to past experiences and apply it to your daily lives. (The Johnson Foundation, 1987) Learning involves self-discipline and work. (Stoll, cited in Ravitch, 1998)

The Reading Assignments

Please be aware each chapter contains a plethora of theoretical material and research data. Plan and manage your time accordingly. The weekly reading assignments will follow the syllabus for the most part and reflect the nine major segments of the course. You are expected to come to each class having read the assignment *and having thought critically about it*. This will prepare you for debates, small group work and written reflection. During class each week, you are encouraged to practice asking and answering questions.

Attendance and Participation

Your attendance is expected. This class will be shaped by your presence and participation. Sharing one's own ideas and responding to others' reactions improves thinking and deepens understanding. (The Johnson Foundation, 1987) **How else do we get new ideas?** Absences adversely affect your grade. If you miss more than 6 hours of class, regardless of the reason, you risk failure or withdrawal from the course. If you miss a class, you are responsible for contacting a fellow student to obtain the information discussed in that class (notes, changes in exam dates, etc.) By next week or so, consider introducing yourself to two classmates and note their e-mail or telephone number on this syllabus. Please let me know if you have any problems which cause an extended absence.

Punctuality is imperative. Important information often is disseminated at the beginning of class. Arriving on time and staying to the end of class shows respect for your fellow learners. If you repeatedly come to class late, you will be marked absent. Absences affect your grade.

Special Needs

If you have difficulty with the course material, please see me during office hours or call for an appointment. I am happy to clarify any questions you may have.

If you have special needs (such as a learning disability, physical condition, etc.) and require accommodations to enhance your participation in the class, please contact the Learning Specialist or Student Development Office. In order to provide you with accommodations, I must receive documentation pertaining to your needs. Effort will be made to support everyone's learning.

Integrity, Civility and Communication

While the instructor encourages students to work together frequently, honesty in all academic work is expected of every student. This means a research paper shall be the original creation of each student and answers on examinations will be determined without help from auxiliary sources. Academic dishonesty erodes the integrity of the College and devalues every degree granted. If the instructor has any reason to question your conduct, the college's Academic Dishonesty policy will be swiftly executed.

Assessments

Assessments will be three tests, which will be completed on Blackboard during class time. The tests are not cumulative, however, knowledge builds on itself and we adopt a continuous perspective in this course. Tests will be primarily multiple choice, but will also use short answer, and short essay. Tests will assess conceptual knowledge and will focus on the materials we discuss in class and any outside readings I may assign. All additional readings will be available on Blackboard.

Week	Concepts Covered	Assignments
28 Aug	Introduction	
4 Sept	Chapter 1-3	read text
11 Sept	Chapter 4	read text
18 Sept	Chapter 5	read text
25 Sept	Chapter 6	read text
2 Oct	Test Chapters 1-6	Test
9 Oct	Chapters 7-8	read text
16 Oct	Chapters 9-10	read text
23 Oct	Chapters 11-12	read text
30 Oct	Test Chapters 7-12	read text
6 Nov	Chapters 13-14	read text
13 Nov	Chapters 15-16	read text
20 Nov	No Class	No Class
27 Nov	Chapters 17-18	read text
4 Dec	Make Up Session	Make Up Session
11 Dec	Test Last Class	Test Last Class