

**SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY
DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY (PSY 230)
COURSE SYLLABUS
SPRING 2009**

TIME: Monday, 3:30 pm – 6:10 pm

LOCATION: AL 105

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Sara J. Unsworth

CONTACT: (619) 594-1327 E-mail: unsworth@sciences.sdsu.edu

OFFICE HOURS: Wednesdays, 11am – noon, in LS 279 (second floor walkway between North Life Sciences and South Life Sciences)

PREREQUISITE: PSY 101 Introductory Psychology

This course is not open to students with credit in Child and Family Development 270, or General Studies 130.

Description:

In PSY 230 (Developmental Psychology), you will learn about psychological development of normal individuals from conception through childhood, adolescence, and maturity.

Over the course of the semester, you will learn to:

1. Describe some of the psychological changes people experience throughout their lives.
2. Identify specific forces that influence development (e.g., environmental, cultural, biological).
3. Examine the validity of conclusions drawn from developmental studies.
4. Design a research study examining some aspect of development.
5. Connect developmental research with issues in your lives and communities.

Required Textbook:

Kail, R.V., & Cavanaugh, J.C. (2004). *Human development: A life-span view* (4th ed.). Thomson/Wadsworth.

-- The textbook can be purchased at the SDSU bookstore. A copy has also been put on reserve at the library.

Lecture notes will be posted on blackboard on or before the morning of class.

Assignments:

Article Summary Assignment – 20% of final grade

Research Proposal – 25% of final grade

Midterm Exams – 25% of final grade

Final Exam – 30% of final grade

Article Summary Assignment:

In the Article Summary Assignment, you will be required to locate and summarize one research article from a peer-reviewed journal related both to developmental psychology and to your interests. The summary will be no longer than ½ page, double-spaced. More information regarding assignment requirements will be posted on Blackboard and discussed in class.

Research Proposal:

The research proposal will be 3 pages long, double-spaced. In the research proposal, you will propose a research project you would like to conduct to better understand human development. Each proposal should be written according to APA guidelines and should include the following:

- a clear statement of the research question
- a brief background, including a review of some previous research (which can come from the article summary assignment), and a statement about why the proposed study is important (Does it help us learn more about some aspect of psychology? Could it be of benefit to society?)
- a description of the biological, psychological, and sociocultural factors that relate to the topic of your research, and which specific factors you propose to examine
- predictions about the results of the study
- a description of the research design and methods that will be used to test the predictions (i.e., what kind of study could you do examine your research question?)
- a statement about whether any claims can be made about specific causal relations

More information regarding requirements for the research proposal will be posted on Blackboard and discussed in class.

****LATE ASSIGNMENTS:** For both the Article Summary Assignment and the Research Proposal, 5% will be deducted if the assignment is not handed in on the due date, and an additional 5% will be deducted for every additional day that passes before the assignment is turned in.

Exams:

Each exam will consist of 50 multiple choice and true-false questions. There will be two midterm exams and one final exam. Only one midterm exam grade (the highest grade) will be included in the final course grade – you will have the opportunity to drop the lower midterm exam grade from the final calculations. The midterm exams will not be cumulative. The final exam will include 10 cumulative questions that cover content from the beginning of the course. Given that you will be given the opportunity to drop one midterm from your final course grade, **there will be no make-up exams.**

****You will need to purchase 882-E scantron sheets for the exams (the green ones).**

****Study guides for exams will be posted on Blackboard, and exam review sessions will be conducted via the Discussion Board on Blackboard (more detail will be provided in class).**

Active participation in class is strongly encouraged and will provide a more enjoyable learning environment for everyone. I welcome your questions and encourage you to pose them without hesitation when you need more information, a different explanation, a better example, or clarification.

You are encouraged to stop by during my office hours to talk about any questions, problems, or suggestions you may have concerning the course. If you want to meet with me and find the scheduled hours are not convenient, please feel free to schedule an appointment.

As a courtesy to your fellow students and teachers, please turn off *cell phones* during class and exams.

Grading Guidelines				
Minimum%	Grade		Minimum%	Grade
94%	A		77%	C+
90%	A-		74%	C
87%	B+		70%	C-
84%	B		60%	D
80%	B-		0%	F

A grade of "WU" for "withdrawal unauthorized" (formerly "U") indicates that you enrolled in a course, did not officially withdraw from the course, but failed to complete course requirements. For purposes of GPA computation, this grade is equivalent to an "F". If you attend a portion of a course and then, after receiving a failing grade, stop attending without officially withdrawing, you will receive a final grade of "F" rather than "WU".

A grade of "I" for "incomplete authorized" is only given when a minor portion of required courseware has not been completed and evaluated in the prescribed time period due to unforeseen, but fully justified, reasons. It is your responsibility to bring pertinent information to the instructor and to reach an agreement on the means by which the remaining course requirements will be satisfied. An incomplete shall not be assigned when the only way you could make up the work would be to attend a major portion of the class when it is offered next.

Cheating – Academic Misconduct:

Academic misconduct includes the following examples as well as any other similar conduct which is aimed at falsely representing a student's academic performance: cheating, plagiarizing, unauthorized collaborating on course work, stealing course examinations or materials, falsifying records or data, or intentionally assisting another individual in any of the above.

Academic misconduct will not be tolerated. Students who cheat will receive an "F" for the course grade and the Psychology Department's Undergraduate Coordinator and SDSU's Judicial Coordinator will be notified. The Judicial Coordinator will conduct an investigation, and depending on the outcome, the student may be expelled, suspended, or placed on probation.

For more information on SDSU's policies and procedures regarding academic misconduct visit the following site: [Academic Misconduct](#).

CLASS SCHEDULE

January 26 th	Introduction to Developmental Psychology *no office hours this week
February 2 nd	Chapter 1: The Study of Human Development
February 9 th	Chapter 2: Biological Foundations
February 16 th	Chapter 3: Tools for Exploring the World
February 23 rd	Chapter 4: The Emergence of Thought and Language
March 2 nd	EXAM 1
March 9 th	Chapters 5: Entering the Social World
March 16 th	Chapter 6: Off to School *no office hours this week
March 23 rd	Chapter 8: Rites of Passage ARTICLE SUMMARY DUE
March 30 th	SPRING RECESS – NO CLASS *no office hours this week
April 6 th	Chapter 10: Becoming an Adult
April 13 th	Chapter 11: Being with Others
April 20 th	EXAM 2
April 27 th	Chapter 13: Making it in Midlife RESEARCH PROPOSAL DUE
May 4 th	Chapter 14: Late Adulthood Chapter 15: Social Aspects of Later Life
May 11 th	Chapter 16: The Final Passage
May 18 th	FINAL EXAM