

Dakota College at Bottineau Course Syllabus

Course Prefix/Number/Title:

PSYC 250—Developmental Psychology

Number of credits:

3 credits

Course Description:

A survey of the psychology of human life span development. Includes a study of human development through the life-span with an emphasis on physical, cognitive, social, emotional and personality development.

Pre-/Co-requisites:

PSYC 111—Introduction to Psychology

Course Objectives:

Students will:

1. Define key concepts in the field of developmental psychology.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of developmental psychology, including the field's history, methods, and future directions.
3. Explain basic physical, cognitive, social, emotional, and personality development throughout the lifespan.
4. Apply concepts learned in class to different scenarios (both in class, and within their own lives).

Instructor:

Lexi R. Kvasnicka-Gates, Ph.D.

Office:

Thatcher Hall 2208

Office Hours:

Mondays and Wednesdays: 3:00-4:00

Tuesdays: 11:00-1:00

Phone: 228-5475

Email: lexi.kvasnicka@dakotacollege.edu

Lecture/Lab Schedule:

MWF 9:00-9:50
TH 1108

Textbook(s):

Berger, K. S. (2011). *The developing person throughout the life span*, 8th Ed. New York: Worth Publishers.

Course Requirements:

- Exams (4 exams (non-cumulative), each worth 50 points) 200 points
 - Quizzes (10 quizzes, each worth 5 points) 50 points
 - Papers (2 papers, each worth 25 points) 50 points
- Total: 300 points**

A	270 and above
B	240-269
C	210-239
D	180-209
F	179 and below

Major Assignments:

- **Exams:** There will be 4, non-cumulative, exams throughout the semester worth 50 points each. Exams will cover information presented in class and from the textbook. Each exam will consist of 40 multiple choice questions worth 1 point each, and two short answer questions worth 5 points each. All exams are closed book and notes.
- **Quizzes:** Ten (10) quizzes will be given randomly throughout the semester. Each quiz will be worth 5 points, and will vary in nature (e.g., short answer, multiple choice, matching). Quizzes cannot be made up under *any* circumstances. These quizzes will cover material presented in the week's readings and lectures.
- **Papers:** Each student will complete two papers throughout the semester. The first paper will be a gendered toy analysis, and another will apply class concepts to a movie review. Each paper will be two pages (double-spaced) in length. Paper descriptions and rubrics are available on Moodle. Papers are due on the specified due dates, but can be submitted in advance.

Tentative Course Outline:

Week	Date	Day	Topic	Chapter
Week 1	1/9 1/11	Wednesday Friday	Class Introduction Introduction	1
Week 2	1/14 1/16 1/18	Monday Wednesday Friday	Theories of Development Theories of Development Heredity and Environment	2 2 3
Week 3	1/21 1/23 1/25	Monday Wednesday Friday	<i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day (No Class)</i> Prenatal Development and Birth Prenatal Development and Birth	4 4
Week 4	1/28 1/30	Monday Wednesday	First Two Years First Two Years	5-7 5-7

	2/1	Friday	First Two Years	5-7
Week 5	2/4	Monday	First Two Years	5-7
	2/6	Wednesday	Review	1-7
	2/8	Friday	Exam #1	1-7
Week 6	2/11	Monday	Early Childhood	8-10
	2/13	Wednesday	Early Childhood	8-10
	2/15	Friday	Early Childhood	8-10
Week 7	2/18	Monday	<i>President's Day Holiday (No Class)</i>	
	2/20	Wednesday	Early Childhood	8-10
	2/22	Friday	Early Childhood	8-10
Week 8	2/25	Monday	Middle Childhood	11-13
	2/27	Wednesday	Middle Childhood	11-13
	3/1	Friday	Middle Childhood	11-13
Week 9	3/4	Monday	Middle Childhood	11-13
	3/6	Wednesday	Review (Paper #1 Due)	8-13
	3/8	Friday	Exam #2	8-13
Week 10	3/11	Monday	<i>Spring Break (No Class)</i>	
	3/13	Wednesday	<i>Spring Break (No Class)</i>	
	3/15	Friday	<i>Spring Break (No Class)</i>	
Week 11	3/18	Monday	Adolescence	14-16
	3/20	Wednesday	<i>Advising Day (No Class)</i>	14-16
	3/22	Friday	Adolescence	14-16
Week 12	3/25	Monday	Adolescence	14-16
	3/27	Wednesday	Emerging Adulthood	17-19
	3/29	Friday	<i>Holiday (No Class)</i>	17-19
Week 13	4/1	Monday	<i>Holiday (No Class)</i>	
	4/3	Wednesday	Emerging Adulthood	17-19
	4/5	Friday	Emerging Adulthood	17-19
Week 14	4/8	Monday	Emerging Adulthood	17-19
	4/10	Wednesday	Review	14-19
	4/12	Friday	Exam #3	14-19
Week 15	4/15	Monday	Adulthood	20-22
	4/17	Wednesday	Adulthood	20-22
	4/19	Friday	Adulthood	20-22
Week 16	4/22	Monday	Late Adulthood	23-25
	4/24	Wednesday	Late Adulthood	23-25
	4/26	Friday	Death and Dying (Paper #2 Due)	Epilogue
Week 17	4/29	Monday	"Tuesdays with Morrie"	
	5/1	Wednesday	"Tuesdays with Morrie"	
	5/3	Friday	Review	20-25
Week 18	5/6	Monday	Exam #4 (9:00-9:50am)	20-25

***The final will NOT be given early. You must take the final during the final exam time, no exceptions.

General Education Goals/Objectives:

- Goal 1: Explains the interrelationships between humans and their environment and the role of science in their lives.
- Goal 4: Demonstrate Effective Communication

Relationship to Campus Theme:

Campus theme: Nature, Technology, and Beyond

- Students will be familiar with the technological tools used to investigate the mind and our behavior.
- Students will be familiar with how nature influences our own (psychological) development.
- Students will use critical thinking to understand the importance of psychology now, and in the future.

Classroom Policies:

- **Participation.** Students are expected to come to class prepared and actively engage in class discussion and activities. The classroom environment is open and harassment free, so please engaged in discussion. Computers are welcome in the classroom for note-taking purposes only. If students abuse this privilege, the instructor reserves the right to ban computers from the lecture periods.
- **Deadlines.** All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day that they are due. Students will be deducted 5 points for every 24-hour period the assignment is not turned in, including weekends.

If a student is aware that they will miss an exam, they must inform the instructor *at least two weeks* prior to the missed exam. An essay exam (worth 50 points) will substitute for the missed exam. This exam must be taken *before* the scheduled exam date. If a student is sick or experiences unforeseen circumstances where an exam must be missed, the instructor must be informed immediately and proper documentation must be presented (e.g., doctor's note, police accident report). An essay exam will take the place of the missed exam and must be taken within one week of the missed exam. Students involved in college activities (e.g., athletics) that require them to miss an exam will take a make-up which is the same format as typical exams (multiple choice and short answer). Proper documentation from a coach or faculty supervisor is required to avoid the essay exam.

- **Grades.** Questions about test grades can be emailed to the instructor up to 10 days (including weekends) after the grade is posted; after this time grades are considered final. Questions regarding grades can be emailed to the instructor no sooner than 24-hours after the grade has been posted. Challenging the grade will result in a re-grade. Re-grades may result in a grade higher or lower than the original grade.
- **Canceled Class.** If a weather-related event prevents the professor from getting to class, students will be responsible for completing an "assignment" over the scheduled reading. Information about the assignment will be provided on the class Moodle shell, and the deadline for completion of the assignment will be by 9:00pm the day of the missed class. The "assignment" will take the place of an in-class quiz, and will be worth 5 points. Students will be notified of the professor's absence by a note on the classroom door, as well as with an announcement on Moodle. Just as with the in-class quizzes, if a student does not complete the assignment by 9:00pm, it cannot be made up.

Academic Integrity:

Plagiarism (taking the ideas, thoughts, or language of someone else and passing them off as your own) will not be tolerated in this class. If a student is suspected of plagiarizing, cheating, or not doing their own work, the matter will be investigated. Any student who is found to engage in academic dishonesty (including letting others cheat off of you) will receive an automatic “F” in the course. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the appropriate University office and additional action may be taken.

Disabilities and Special Needs:

Please inform the instructor within the first week of classes if any assistance is required due to disabilities or special needs.