

**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 2206

**Office Hours:** By arrangement. We can “meet” virtually using the Blackboard Collaborate link on the Welcome page. Please email me to arrange a time.

**Phone:** 228-5475

**Email:** [lexi.kvasnicka@dakotacollege.edu](mailto:lexi.kvasnicka@dakotacollege.edu)

**Lecture/Lab Schedule:** Online

**Textbook(s):**

Berger, K. S. (2011). *The developing person throughout the life span*, 8<sup>th</sup> 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

- Discussions (10 discussions, each worth 5 points) 50 points
  - Papers (2 papers, each worth 25 points) 50 points
- Total: 350 points**

A	315 and above
B	280-314
C	245-279
D	210-244
F	Below 210

**Major Assignments (all done on Blackboard):**

- **Exams:** There will be 4 exams throughout the semester worth 50 points each. Exams will cover information presented in class and from the textbook. Each exam will consist of 50 multiple choice questions worth 1 point each. Exams are over specified chapters (non-cumulative).
  - **Exam Procedures:** Exams will be taken online (thus internet access is needed) and are located on the course Blackboard shell under the appropriate week (see the Course Schedule). Students will have 90 minutes to complete the exam, and **ONLY ONE ATTEMPT**. All exams are open until the closing date. Closing dates for exams are also the closing dates for quizzes and discussions over the exam material (e.g., quizzes and discussions over Chapters 14-19 will close when Exam #3 closes).
    - **Exam Closing Dates and Times:**
      - Exam #1 Material: Closes at 11:59pm on September 27
      - Exam #2 Material: Closes at 11:59pm on October 25
        - Paper #1 is also due on this date
      - Exam #3 Material: Closes at 11:59pm on November 22
      - Exam #4 Material: Closes at 11:59pm on December 13
        - Paper #2 is also due on this date
- **Quizzes:** Ten (10) quizzes will be given throughout the semester. Each quiz is worth 5 points, and will consist of multiple choice questions. These quizzes are posted on the course Blackboard shell. These quizzes cover material presented in the week’s readings and lectures. Quizzes are open until the exam covering the quiz material closes (e.g. quizzes over Chapters 6-7 will close when Exam #3 closes).
- **Discussion Board Participation:** In the course outline for the class, ten different topics are identified as “Discussion” topics. The instructor has posed a discussion question on the course Blackboard shell for the given topic. Each student is responsible for participating in the discussion by posting his/her own response to the discussion question (3 points), and engaging in discussion with at least one additional student (2 points). Discussions are open until the exam covering the discussion material closes (e.g. Discussion #1, #2, and #3 will close when Exam #1 closes).
- **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 Blackboard. Papers are due on the specified due dates, but can be submitted in advance.

**Tentative Course Outline:**

Topic	Chapter	Discussion	Quiz	Paper	Exam	Due Date
<b>Unit One</b>						
Introduction	1				Exam #1 Chapters 1-7	Sept. 27, 11:59pm
Theories of Development	2	Discussion #1	Quiz #1			
Heredity and Environment	3		Quiz #2			
Prenatal Development and Birth	4	Discussion #2				
First Two Years	5-7	Discussion #3	Quiz #3			
<b>Unit Two</b>						
Early Childhood	8-10	Discussion #4	Quiz #4		Exam #2 Chapters 8-13	Oct. 25, 11:59pm
Middle Childhood	11-13	Discussion #5	Quiz #5	Paper #1		
<b>Unit Three</b>						
Adolescence	14-16	Discussion #6	Quiz #6		Exam #3 Chapters 14-19	Nov. 22, 11:59pm
Emerging Adulthood	17-19	Discussion #7	Quiz #7			
<b>Unit Four</b>						
Adulthood	20-22	Discussion #8	Quiz #8		Exam #4 Chapters 20-25, Ep	Dec. 13, 11:59pm
Late Adulthood	23-25	Discussion #9				
Death and Dying	Epilogue	Discussion #10	Quiz #9			
“Tuesdays with Morrie”			Quiz #10	Paper #2		

**General Education Competency/Learning Outcome(s) OR CTE Competency/Department Learning Outcome(s):**

- Competency/Goal 6: Demonstrates knowledge of social structures
  - Learning Outcome 1: Examines the experience of the individual
    - Performance Indicator 1: Demonstrates knowledge of mental processes within humans
    - Performance Indicator 2: Explains the developmental stages through which the human mind evolves

**Relationship to Campus Focus:** Campus Focus: 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 stay up-to-date in the class. If a student needs extra help with course technology, it is the student's responsibility to alert the instructor (via email, Blackboard message, or phone) as soon as possible. Please utilize the course Blackboard shell. The classroom environment is open and harassment free, so please engage in discussion.
- **Deadlines.** All assignments are due by Sunday at 11:59pm of the assigned week. Students will be deducted 5 points for every 24-hour period the assignment is not turned in, including weekends. All exams, quizzes, discussions, and project drop boxes are open until the closing date. DO NOT wait for the last minute to complete assignments. If a student does not turn in or complete an assignment by the necessary time, the student will receive a "0" for the incomplete assignment.
- **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.

### **Student E-mail Policy:**

Dakota College at Bottineau is increasingly dependent upon email as an official form of communication. A student's campus-assigned email address will be the only one recognized by the Campus for official mailings. The liability for missing or not acting upon important information conveyed via campus email rests with the student.

### **Academic Integrity:**

According to the DCB Student Handbook, students are responsible for submitting their own work. Students who cooperate on oral or written examinations or work without authorization share the responsibility for violation of academic principles, and the students are subject to disciplinary action even when one of the students is not enrolled in the course where the violation occurred. The Code detailed in the Academic Honesty/Dishonesty section of the Student Handbook will serve as the guideline for cases where cheating, plagiarism or other academic improprieties have occurred.

### **Disabilities and Special Needs:**

Students with disabilities or special needs (academic or otherwise) are encouraged to contact the instructor and Disability Support Services.

### **Title IX:**

DCB faculty are committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students and for the College as a whole. Please be aware that all DCB employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as advocates, counselors, clergy and healthcare providers) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the College Title IX Coordinator. This means that if a student tells a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the College's Title IX Coordinator. Students wishing to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility can find a list of resources on the DCB Title IX webpage.