

Henry Ford Community College
PSY 253 (3 credit hours): LIFESPAN DEVELOPMENT (Fall 2010)
Sections 97 & 98: Online

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 11:15am-noon and 2:15pm-3:15pm; Wednesday 11:15am-2:15pm

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

The study of change in behavior and mental processes as a function of aging throughout the life span. The course begins with prenatal concerns and progresses through the years of infancy, childhood, adolescence, adulthood and aging. Course content includes theory and research associated with biological, cognitive, affective and social development. Prerequisite: C or better in Psychology 131

II. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK & VIDEO TOOLKIT ACCESS: Textbook: Belsky, J. (2009). *Experiencing the Lifespan (2nd ed.)*. New York, NY: Worth.

Video Toolkit Access: **This is just access to chapter videos online through Worth Publishers.** It's not a book, magazine, etc. It's simply online access to chapter videos. This is a requirement, since the weekly post-tests will have questions from these videos. You can purchase access separately at the HFCC bookstore, OR it comes free when you purchase a new text at the HFCC bookstore, OR you can purchase access directly from Worth Publishers at www.worthvideotoolkit.com. *If you chose this option, you need to first specify "Developmental Psychology" after you get to the homepage. Then, go to the bottom left of the login screen and click the the link to purchase a code (orange, rectangular link). It should be \$18.95. Specific directions on how to join my class and to view the videos are in the Getting Started packet in the Course Materials section. Please get this ASAP so you don't miss out on important information!

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES

A. Introduction

1. Describe the main theories in developmental psychology.
2. Describe the role of heredity and environment in the development process.

B. Prenatal Development and Birth

1. Identify the changes in growth and development through the germinal, embryo and fetal stages.
2. Identify teratogens detracting from normal prenatal growth and development.
3. Identify approaches to prenatal risk reduction and to possible birth complications.

C. Infants and Toddlers

1. Identify the physical, cognitive and psychosocial developments at this stage.
2. Identify the probable and possible causes of developmental change.
3. Identify the reasons for disturbance in adjustment.
4. Identify techniques for observing and describing human behavior, cognition, and psychological maturity.

D. The Play Years

1. Identify the physical, cognitive and psychosocial developments at this stage.
2. Identify the probable and possible causes of developmental change.
3. Identify the reasons for disturbance in adjustment.
4. Identify techniques for observing and describing human behavior, cognition, and psychological maturity.

E. The School Years

1. Identify the physical, cognitive and psychosocial developments at this stage.
2. Identify the probable and possible causes of developmental change.
3. Identify the reasons for disturbance in adjustment.
4. Identify techniques for observing and describing human behavior, cognition, and psychological maturity.

F. Adolescence

1. Identify the physical, cognitive and psychosocial developments at this stage.
2. Identify the probable and possible causes of developmental change.
3. Identify the reasons for disturbance in adjustment.
4. Identify techniques for observing and describing human behavior, cognition, and psychological maturity.

G. Early Adulthood

1. Identify the physical, cognitive and psychosocial developments at this stage.
2. Identify the probable and possible causes of developmental change.
3. Identify the reasons for disturbance in adjustment.
4. Identify techniques for observing and describing human behavior, cognition, and psychological maturity.

H. Middle Adulthood

1. Identify the physical, cognitive and psychosocial developments at this stage.
2. Identify the probable and possible causes of developmental change.
3. Identify the reasons for disturbance in adjustment.
4. Identify techniques for observing and describing human behavior, cognition, and psychological maturity.

I. Late Adulthood

1. Identify the physical, cognitive and psychosocial developments at this stage.

2. Identify the probable and possible causes of developmental change.
3. Identify the reasons for disturbance in adjustment.
4. Identify techniques for observing and describing human behavior, cognition, and psychological maturity.

IV. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- A. Reading assignments
- B. Group "discussions" on the Discussion Board
- C. Post-Tests & Exams
- D. Critical thinking activities
- E. Practice activities

V. COURSE EVALUATION

- A. Post-Tests: You will complete 1 *chapter post-test* (done after reading and completing other assignments, including watching the videos on the *Worth Video Toolkit website*) each week. There are a total of 16 tests, and each test is worth 15 points for a total of 240 points toward the final grade (16 tests X 15 points each)*. Each test is timed (15 minutes) and can be reset one time before the due date (The 15-minute time limit applies to EACH attempt. You will lose 1 point per minute over the 15 minutes). The second attempt will have some new questions mixed in with the old questions, and your score on the 2nd attempt is the one that gets recorded in the gradebook. The system does not record answers from the 1st attempt if a test is reset.

*The first test is a Course Information Quiz that just covers information about class policies, the syllabus, the course schedule, etc. (It does not include information from the text).

- B. Final Exam: You will take one *comprehensive* exam with 50 multiple-choice questions during the last week (December 13-15: Due by 9:00pm on 12/15) of the course. It is worth 50 points toward the final grade. If this exam is not passed with a 60% or better, you cannot receive an "A" in the course regardless of the current course grade.

The exam will be made available *only* on the dates recorded in the schedule. It is timed (50 minutes) and can only be accessed once. This means that once you access it (click on the link), you **MUST** take it at that time. You cannot open the test, view it, close it, and come back to it later. There are **NO** exceptions to this rule! You must take the test on a computer with a strong Internet connection and when the weather is calm. **There is no makeup for the exam if you 1) "forget" to take it by the due date or 2) if you start it too late to finish by the due date.**

- C. Midterm Exam: You will take one midterm exam with 35 multiple-choice questions during the latter part of Week 8 (10/19-10/21). It is worth 35 points toward the final grade.

The exam will be made available *only* on the dates recorded in the schedule. It is timed (35 minutes) and can only be accessed once. This means that once you access it (click on the link), you **MUST** take it at that time. You cannot open the test, view it, close it, and come back to it later. There are **NO** exceptions to this rule! You must take the test on a computer with a strong Internet connection and when the weather is calm. **There is no makeup for the exam if you 1) "forget" to take it by the due date or 2) if you start it too late to finish by the due date.**

- D. Critical Thinking Assignments: You will complete 3 assignments designed to promote critical thinking about various topics. These assignments are worth 40 points total. You are expected to write in a professional manner on these assignments and to proofread responses before submitting them. Therefore, mechanical errors, (i.e., grammar, spelling, capitalization, spacing, omission of words) will constitute a deduction of points on these assignments (there is no maximum number of points that can be deducted). You are also expected to discuss issues and converse with classmates and your instructor in a respectful manner. While it is perfectly acceptable to disagree with someone or something, you must do so thoughtfully and with consideration for other's thoughts and feelings. Points can be deducted for failure to conduct yourself in a professional and respectful manner. There is no maximum number of points that can be deducted.

- E. Discussion Board: You will respond to questions and converse with classmates through 5 *written* assignments on the Discussion Board. These assignments are worth 10 points each for a total of 50 points toward the final grade. Students are expected to write in a professional manner on these assignments and proofread responses before submitting them. Therefore, mechanical errors (i.e., grammar, spelling, capitalization, spacing, omission of words) will constitute a deduction of points on these assignments (there is no maximum number of points that can be deducted). You are also expected to discuss issues and converse with classmates and instructor in a respectful manner. While it is perfectly acceptable to disagree with someone or something, you must do so thoughtfully and with consideration for other's thoughts and feelings. Points can be deducted for failure to conduct yourself in a professional and respectful manner. There is no maximum number of points that can be deducted.

- F. Extra credit – You can earn a maximum of 10 extra credit points through one extra credit quiz given during week 14 or 15. Although more points may be offered and earned, you can **ONLY** count 10 extra credit points toward the final grade. This extra credit quiz is completely voluntary and cannot be made up in the event of a missed due date. (Extra points earned on post-tests **DO NOT** count toward these 10 points.)

IMPORTANT: If you choose to submit answers close to due dates for post-tests, exams, and critical thinking assignments, it is possible those answers will not get recorded in the system. This is due to the fact that the UCompass clock and your computer clock are probably different. If you try to submit answers right before assignments close and the gradebook shows a zero for the assignments, you will earn a zero. I will NOT go into your assignments to see if the system recorded answers because you waited until the last minute to submit. PLEASE plan accordingly!

VI. ATTENDANCE POLICY

Student attendance is required and expected. If you are not attending to the lessons and activities, you are not in class. If you were taking this course on campus, you would be coming to class 2 days a week for approximately 1.5 hours a day. In addition to the class time you would also have assignments to do. The time frame for this class is no different. You will need to do something for this class every day or two (e.g., check announcements, UCompass email, Course Materials, etc.). We are covering 15 chapters in 15 weeks, so do not get behind!

Each week (Thursday morning; Monday morning for Chapters 14 & 15) you will access new assignments in the form of a "packet" in the **Course Materials** section of our course. There are 17 packets total (Getting Started, 16 Chapters, and the Final Exam), and 1 packet will be available at a time. To access the materials in each packet, simply click the title of the packet. Each packet contains weekly assignments for one chapter from the text. Packets for each week "turn on" (become available) every Thursday morning between 8:00-9:00am and "turn off" the following Thursday evening at 9:00pm (Chapters 14 & 15 open on a Monday and close the following Monday). The exception to this is the midterm and final exam. **All packets are only open for one week at a time (with the exception of the midterm & final exam)**, so you must complete all activities for that week *during that week*. **Once a packet "turns off", its assignments for that week cannot be completed.** Therefore, you should not wait until the last part of each week to do the scheduled activities for the packet. You will get behind if this happens, and your grade will most likely suffer. We are covering 15 chapters in 15 weeks, so you must attend this class regularly. **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL MATERIAL DISCUSSED AND PRESENTED IN THE TEXT AND IN SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS.**

IMPORTANT: Should you experience issues with your computer or Internet service, you must use the computers at HFCC or any public library. **Please note that if you experience technical issues with your computer and/or the Internet, it is YOUR problem and YOUR responsibility to find another computer to use. You are STILL responsible for assignments regardless of the status of your computer. Because of this, you should not wait until the last minute to complete assignments.**

If you encounter any issue that may prevent you from completing assignments on time, you should contact me ASAP. Do not wait weeks after a situation or contact me right before the end of the semester. **I may or may not allow you extra time, depending on your situation.** Decisions will be made on a case by case basis, but hospitalization of family members (other than yourself as the student) and funerals do not automatically constitute extra time for assignments. You will need to provide a verifiable excuse *should I allow you extra time*. I expect you to complete all assignments by the specified due dates. In most cases, I will not extend due dates. I have to be fair to everyone, and sticking to due dates is one way to be fair. I am not kidding about this and take it very seriously!

In the event of an emergency (e.g., serious sickness, hospitalization), students should contact the instructor (or have someone else do it) to inform her about the student's absence and to make arrangements for turning in assignments. Written, verifiable documentation of the incident/situation must be provided via email or fax. The message should be sent as soon as possible.

Assignments will only be accepted through worksheets, the Discussion Board, and/or Course Folders (as they are set up). They will NOT be accepted through email unless directed to do so. Please be aware the instructor is not responsible for lost work or for work needing to be resubmitted. Students must save copies of their completed work and keep them until a grade has been given **for the semester**.

VII. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The instructor strongly encourages study groups; however, students are expected to complete their own assigned homework, quizzes, critical thinking, discussion board, etc. Sharing work with classmates and copying work from others (classmates, authors, artists, websites, etc.) constitutes cheating and plagiarism. Neither cheating nor plagiarizing will be tolerated. Both will be punished with a grade of zero on the questioned work and may result in failure of the course. Please refer to the HFCC college catalog for more information. All students are required to sign an Academic Integrity Form at the beginning of the semester.

VIII. ACCOMMODATIONS FOR SPECIAL NEEDS

If students need an academic accommodation because of a disability, please advise the instructor. Make an appointment as soon as possible to verify the disability and arrange accommodations with Assisted Learning Services (313-845-9617).

IX. ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT INFORMATION: *Students are responsible for dropping the course by Thursday, 11/11 (last date to drop).* The instructor will not drop students after this drop date. **Please DO NOT ask for a drop after this date unless you have previously been in contact with your instructor about a situation Any student who stops "attending" class for any reason and does not officially drop the course will earn an "E" on his/her transcript.** Please talk with your instructor on a regular basis so she can help you succeed!

FYI.....You are expected to write in a professional manner on Critical Thinking and Discussion Board assignments and to proofread responses before submitting them. Therefore, mechanical errors (i.e., grammar, spelling, capitalization, spacing, punctuation, omission of words) will constitute a deduction of points on these assignments. You will lose one point per error after the first two errors. There is no maximum number of deductions that can be made.

FYI.....You are expected to discuss issues and converse with classmates and your instructor in a respectful manner. While it is perfectly acceptable to disagree with someone or something, you must do so thoughtfully and with consideration for other's thoughts and feelings. I reserve the right to deduct any number of points from assignments if you fail to treat others with respect (including Mrs.B). There is no maximum number of deductions that can be made.

FYI.....You are expected to use email in a respectful and professional manner. I reserve the right to not respond to emails written in a disrespectful manner and/or emails sent in an inappropriate, unprofessional format. I also reserve the right to forward inappropriate emails to the Associate Dean of Social Sciences (Dr. Schopmeyer). Whatever you say in an email, you should feel comfortable saying to me in person. In EACH email, you should include a greeting (Hi, Dear, Hello Mrs. Buchanan, Mrs. B, etc.), your name, and your section number (97, 98, or 99). You should also put a brief description of the subject of your message in the subject line AND sign your name at the end of the message. Under no circumstances should you write in texting format or in all capital letters (this indicates you are shouting). Thank you very much for your cooperation here! Please ask if you have any questions.

X. GRADING PROCEDURE

Grading is on a point system with 415 possible points and is on a 10-point scale.

Assignments		Grading Scale	
Post Tests	= 240 points	415 – 372 = A	(90% – 100% = A)
Midterm Exam	= 35 points	371 – 330 = B	(80% – 89% = B)
Final Exam	= 50 points	329 – 289 = C	(70% - 79% = C)
Critical Thinking	= 40 points	288 – 247 = D	(60% - 69% = D)
Discussion	= 50 points	< 247 = E	(59% or less = E)
Total	= 415 points		

Grades are calculated as follows:

1. Add the total number of **points earned** for all assignments.
2. Add the total number of **points possible** for all assignments.
3. Divide the total number of **points earned** by the total number of **points possible**.
4. Multiply this number by 100. This number is the grade, which is the percentage based on a 100-point scale. In other words, if the number is a 94, the grade is a 94%, or an A. If the number is an 82, the grade is an 82%, or a B. The grade will be rounded to the nearest tenth (numbers 5 and above are rounded up while numbers 4 and below are rounded down). For example, if the percentage is 79.7 it will be rounded up to a 80%. An 80% is a "B-". If the percentage is 79.4 it will be rounded down to a 79%. A 79% is a C+.

Here's a Grade Calculation Example:

1. *Clark earned the following points:*

Post-Tests	= 205 points
Midterm Exam	= 30 points
Final Exam	= 45 points
Critical Thinking	= 39 points
Discussion Board	= 48 points
Extra Credit	= 10 points
Total	= 377 points

3. Divide **points earned** by **points possible**: $377/415 = .906$
4. Multiply .908 by 100 = 90.8 = 91% (A)

2. Following are the *total points possible* for all assignments during Clark's class:

Post-Tests	= 240 points
Midterm Exam	= 35 points
Final Exam	= 50 points
Critical Thinking	= 40 points
Discussion Board	= 50 points
Extra Credit	= DO NOT COUNT HERE

Total	= 415 points
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XI. TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE – The instructor reserves the right to change the schedule as necessary

August 26 - September 9	Week 1 Packet Available: Chapter 1: Assignments for this week are due by 9:00pm on 9/9 (Thursday)
September 8	Last day for a 50% Refund on Fall 2010 Classes
September 2-9	Week 2 Packet Available: Chapter 2: Assignments for this week are due by 9:00pm on 9/9 (Thursday)
September 9-16	Week 3 Packet Available: Chapter 3: Assignments for this week are due by 9:00pm on 9/16 (Thursday)
September 16-23	Week 4 Packet Available: Chapter 4: Assignments for this week are due by 9:00pm on 9/23 (Thursday)
September 23-30	Week 5 Packet Available: Chapter 5: Assignments for this week are due by 9:00pm on 9/30 (Thursday)
September 30-October 7	Week 6 Packet Available: Chapter 6: Assignments for this week are due by 9:00pm on 10/7 (Thursday)
October 7-14	Week 7 Packet Available: Chapter 7: Assignments for this week are due by 9:00pm on 10/14 (Thursday)
October 14-21	Week 8 Packet Available: Chapter 8: Assignments for this week are due by 9:00pm on 10/21 (Thursday)
October 21-28	Week 9 Packet Available: Chapter 9: Assignments for this week are due by 9:00pm on 10/28 (Thursday)
October 28-November 4	Week 10 Packet Available: Chapter 10: Assignments for this week are due by 9:00pm on 11/4 (Thursday)
November 4-11	Week 11 Packet Available: Chapter 11: Assignments for this week are due by 9:00pm on 11/11 (Thursday)
Thursday, 11/11	Last day to officially drop Fall 2010 Classes
November 11-18	Week 12 Packet Available: Chapter 12: Assignments for this week are due by 9:00pm on 11/18 (Thursday)
November 18-29	Week 13 Packet Available: Chapter 13: Assignments for this week are due by 9:00pm on 11/29 (Monday)
November 29-December 6	Week 14 Packet Available: Chapter 14: Assignments for this week are due by 9:00pm on 12/6 (Monday)
December 6-13	Week 15 Packet Available: Chapter 15: Assignments for this week are due by 9:00pm on 12/13 (Monday)
December 13-15	Final Exam is available. It can be taken any time during these days as long as answers are submitted by 9:00pm on 12/15 (You cannot just start the exam by 9:00pm; you must complete the exam by this time). Good luck!

XII. GRADE CALCULATION SHEET: Record grades below and keep track of them during the course. Points earned are listed in the “Student Score” column (the first column) of the Grades/Progress section of UCompass.

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Points Earned</u>	<u>Points Possible</u>
A. Post-Tests (240 points)		
Week 1 (Course Information Quiz)		15
Week 1 (Chapter 1)		15
Week 1 (Chapter 2)		15
Week 2 (Chapter 3)		15
Week 2 (Chapter 4)		15
Week 3 (Chapter 5)		15
Week 3 (Chapter 6)		15
Week 3 (Chapter 7)		15
Week 4 (Chapter 8)		15
Week 4 (Chapter 9)		15
Week 4 (Chapter 10)		15
Week 5 (Chapter 11)		15
Week 5 (Chapter 12)		15
Week 6 (Chapter 13)		15

Week 6 (Chapter 14)		15
Week 7 (Chapter 15)		15
B. Final Exam		50
B. Midterm Exam		35
C. Critical Thinking (40 points)		
Week 4 - Chapter 4 (Social Referencing)		10
Week 7 or 8 - Chapter 7 (Phone Conference)		20
Week 13 & 14 (Interview with a Later Life Adult)		10
E. Discussion Board (50 points)		
Week 1 - Chapter 1 (Introduction)		10
Week 6 - Chapter 6 (Bullying)		10
Week 10 - Chapter 10 (Non-traditional Dating)		10
Week 12 - Chapter 12 (Sex at Midlife)		10
Week 15 - Chapter 15 (Ideal Age)		10
F. Extra credit (10 points maximum)		
#1 (Quiz)		N/A
Totals		415

The following are FYIs about the UCompass gradebook. PLEASE read them carefully and then ask questions if you have them.

FYI #1: The percentage and grade shown in UCompass will not be 100% accurate. That is why you need to keep track of your grades with the Grade Calculation Sheet on the next page. One issue is that each post-test is worth 15 points (per Section V above) but has 16 questions on it. (In other words, the **points possible** for each post-test are actually 15 even though you can earn more than 15 points). Any points earned above 15 are actually extra points. However, the gradebook does not “understand” this, and it assumes that if a post-test has 16 questions on it, the points possible are 16. I cannot “tell” the system that points earned above 15 are extra, but it is definitely to your benefit to have more than 15 questions. For example, if you take a post-test with 16 questions and earn 14 points, your percentage is a 93% (14 divided by 15). It’s NOT an 87.5%, which is what you get if you divide 14 by 16. So.....to find your **points earned**, you need to read the 1st column in the gradebook, which is called the “Student Score”. DO NOT go by the 3rd column called “Gradebuilder Points Earned”. I’m not sure where the numbers in this column come from. To find your current percentage at any time during the semester, please follow the instructions above in Section X, Grading Procedure.

A second issue is that the percentage shown is a reflection of your score on “*attempted*” assignments and not on “*all required*” assignments. If you miss a required assignment, the system will adjust your score to show your percentage on those assignments you actually completed rather than all assignments.

FYI #2: The last column, “Date Submitted”, will only show the time and date you submit post-test answers, extra credit quiz answers, Critical Thinking answers, and final exam answers. If you submit answers for any of these assignments but nothing appears in the “Date Submitted” column, something is wrong and you should contact your instructor.

The “Date Submitted” Column will NOT show time and date submissions for Discussion Board assignments or Critical Thinking assignments. The column will appear as an “NA”. I’m not sure why, so please don’t ask. The only way to tell if you submitted your DB responses correctly is to go to the Discussion Board itself and look at all of the responses. If your responses are not there, you have submitted them incorrectly. Be careful about modifying a post after the due date. Anything you do to the post will change the date and time.

FYI #3: You will not see a score in the first column (Student Score) for DB assignments and Critical Thinking assignments until I have manually graded them. Until a grade is assigned, it will look like this: "Not submitted / Points possible" (DB and CT). Please do not panic as long as you can see your responses on the DB. Please be patient as it may take several weeks for the grades to appear.