

**Psychology 213: Lifespan Development
Spring 2009 - Section 2**

Instructor: Gregory Braswell, 428 DeGarmo Hall, 438-5729, gsbrasw@ilstu.edu

Office Hours: Mondays 1:30-2:30pm & Wednesdays 9:30 – 10:30am, or by appointment

Class Meetings: Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays, 2:00 – 2:50pm, CVA 151

Course Description & Objectives: The primary goals of this course are to introduce students to the field of developmental psychology and to help students gain a basic understanding of physical, cognitive, social, emotional changes that occur in people's lives from conception until death. This course will also cover the diverse contexts in which development occurs, and it will familiarize students with current research and methodology in the field of lifespan developmental psychology. For a complete list of objectives, please refer to <http://www.psychology.ilstu.edu/undergrad/objectives/200.shtml>. Classes will involve lectures, discussions, exams, in-class assignments, and videos in order to meet these objectives.

Required Text: Berk, L. E. (2008). *Exploring lifespan development*. 1st Ed. Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

Course Requirements: In order to help you meet the learning objectives listed above, there will be four multiple-choice exams administered throughout the semester. These tests will cover both the textbook and lecture material. The dates for these exams are listed below in the schedule of reading assignments. **If you have to miss an exam due to a scheduling conflict or an extreme (and documented) emergency, you will have the option of taking the comprehensive make-up exam at the end of the semester. This exam will include material presented throughout the semester, and students will be able to take it immediately after the fourth exam during finals week. If you know ahead of time that a university-sponsored activity will conflict with an exam for this class (and can provide documentation), you may take the exam early.**

In addition to the exams, there will be **five short written assignments** given throughout the semester. Only four of the five assignments will count toward the final grade (if you complete all 5, the lowest score will be applied toward extra credit). These will take a variety of forms—for example, you may be asked to write about what you already know about an upcoming topic. The due dates for the assignments are listed on the syllabus, and each assignment will be available about a week prior to its due date. I will try to remind you about the assignments and when they are due during regular class times, and assignments must be submitted to my teaching assistants and me through Blackboard. Instructions on how to do this are on the course website. If you do not submit assignments through the assignment function in Blackboard before the due date and time, late assignments will be accepted as e-mailed attachments, but 5 points will be deducted for each 24-hour period the assignment is late.

Attendance: You will not be graded on attendance, but it is recommended that you come to class regularly in order to more fully understand the course material (and do well in the class). Lectures will often provide background for and extend material covered in the textbook. At other times, lectures will involve material beyond the scope of the textbook. You are responsible for catching up on any missed information or assignments given during class time. Please come prepared to listen and participate, and please be courteous and help your fellow students enjoy and benefit from a learning environment without cell phones ringing, chatting with your neighbors, packing your bags

before the end of class or other disruptive activities. Please see <http://www.psychologyilstu.edu/diversity/civility.shtml> for more specifics on what you can do to promote a classroom environment that helps everyone learn.

Grades: Each of the four exams will be worth 80 points. Each of the in-class assignments will be worth 10 points. Thus the total points you can earn for the course (not including extra credit) is 360. Letter grades will be determined in the following manner: A = 324 - 360; B = 288 - 323; C = 252 - 287; D = 216 - 251; F = 0 - 215. *Please note that these grades are determined by points, not by percentages.*

Extra Credit: There are two ways in which you may earn extra credit. **First**, you can participate in studies conducted by faculty and students in the Psychology department. You can sign up for studies in the basement of DeGarmo Hall. You will be given a card which indicates the study's name, date and length of time it took to participate. Be sure to turn in this card to me no later than the end of class on Friday, 5/1. **Each half hour of participation in a study will count as 5 points, and you may earn up to 10 points of extra credit through research participation.** Participating in these studies offers a great way to experience psychological research first-hand. **Second**, you can apply points from your lowest-scored written assignment toward extra credit *if you complete all five assignments* (remember that only 4 of the 5 assignments are included in the total for the course). **Regardless of the options you choose, the maximum for extra credit is 10 points.**

Academic Dishonesty: No points will be awarded for exams or assignments if there is evidence that you did not complete the work without cheating or plagiarizing. ISU's academic integrity policies are detailed at <http://www.deanofstudentsilstu.edu/crr/>, for more information.

Special Accommodations: Any student needing to arrange a reasonable accommodation for a documented disability should contact Disability Concerns at 350 Fell Hall, 438-5853 (voice), 438-8620 (TTY).

Reading Assignments: Below are the reading assignments for each topic that will be covered in this course. The topic dates are tentative, but the exam dates will definitely be on the dates listed.

Dates	Topic	Reading
week 1 (1/12 – 1/16)	Introduction, theories & research methods, heredity & environment	Ch. 1, Ch. 2
week 2 (1/21 – 1/23)	Prenatal development, birth & newborns	Ch. 3
week 3 (1/26 – 1/30)	Infancy (Perceptual-motor skills & cognition)	Ch. 4, Ch. 5
week 4 (2/2 – 2/6)	Infancy (Temperament & attachment) (1st writing assignment due 2/6)	Ch. 6
week 5 (2/9 – 2/13)	Early childhood (Language & cognition) (1st exam on 2/9)	Ch. 7 (SKIP pp. 165 - 172)
week 6 (2/16 – 2/20)	Early childhood (Emotions, play, representational understanding)	Ch. 8

week 7 (2/23 – 2/27)	Early childhood (Self & social understanding; contexts for young children) (2nd writing assignment due 2/23)	Ch. 8
week 8 (3/2 – 3/6)	Middle childhood (Cognition & schooling) (2nd exam on 3/6)	Ch. 9 (SKIP pp. 225-230)
week 9 (3/9 – 3/13)	Spring Break!	
week 10 (3/16 – 3/20)	Middle childhood (Self understanding; Social interaction with peers & family) (3rd writing assignment due 3/18)	Ch. 10
week 11 (3/23 – 3/27)	Adolescence (Physical changes & cognition)	Ch. 11
week 12 (3/30 – 4/3)	Adolescence (Self understanding & social interaction)	Ch. 12
week 13 (4/6 – 4/10)	Early adulthood (Cognition & social interaction) (4th writing assignment due 4/8)	Ch. 13 (SKIP pp. 339-354); Ch. 14
week 14 (4/13 – 4/17)	Middle adulthood (Cognition, personality, family & work) (3rd Exam on 4/13)	Ch. 15 (SKIP pp. 395-406); Ch. 16
week 15 (4/20 – 4/24)	Late adulthood (Physical changes, cognition, social interaction) (5th writing assignment due 4/24)	Ch. 17, Ch. 18
week 16 (4/27 – 5/1)	Late adulthood, the end of life & conclusions	Ch. 19
5/6, 1:00pm	4th Exam & Make-up Exam	—