DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

DEP3053
3 CREDIT HOURS
FALL/2016
** ONLINE
** NO CLASS MEETING TIME(S)

INSTRUCTOR:  Marina A. Klimenko, Ph.D., M.P.A.

Psychology Building, office in room 361

IN PERSON OFFICE HOURS: Friday, between 10:30 am and 1pm. Feel free to visit me in my office if you have any questions or concerns, or to just say ‘Hi”. To make sure I am in the office, send me a quick email in Canvas in advance to let me know you’re coming (I maybe in and out of office).

VIRTUAL OFFICE VIA BIG BLUE BUTTON IN CANVAS: EMAIL THROUGH CANVAS TO SCHEDULE AN INDIVIDUAL VIRTUAL OFFICE MEETING.

INDIVIDUAL VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS BY SKYPE: (prof.klimenko) Email through to schedule an appointment

COURSE GTA (GRADUATE TA):  Jaxenne Daniels, Marilyn Horta, Tian Lin, & Eliana, Pizarro

COURSE UTA:  Gervais Jessica, and Rachel Thorpe

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Students will gain an understanding of development across the lifespan. A particular emphasis will be placed on the interplay of biological, psychological and contextual factors in shaping development over time. As part of understanding and applying developmental concepts, students will engage in active participation with their peers.
STRUCTURE OF COURSE IN E-LEARNING: This course is fully on-line with no specified meeting times. Students are expected to login to Canvas at least 2-3 times/week to participate in the group discussions, take weekly quizzes, and check emails/announcements.

This course is broken down into 14 topical modules, and each module covers one chapter of your textbook. Note, that the topics will not be covered in the same order as they are presented in the textbook, so please check our class syllabus for dates. All modules contain: objectives, readings (what to read for any given week), lectures (lectures to watch), MyVirtualLife (suggested schedule), assignments, and quizzes.

The course is self-paced only in the sense that you can read the course material, watch the lectures, and begin working on My Virtual Life assignment ahead of time.

However, the quizzes and the group discussions can only be completed according to the schedule. If you wish to move ahead of the class schedule, click on Modules (on the left-hand side panel and choose a module. Modules will be accessible at least 2 weeks in advance (Note: Some modules may not be available ahead of time if they are being revised/updated).

COURSE COMMUNICATIONS: All communication will be done in Canvas—emails, discussions, and announcements. Please do not email me to my uf email address with questions/disputes about course assignments.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND OTHER CLASS MATERIALS:


You can choose the package with a Valuepack (ISBN 9781323421215), or the digital package (ISBN 9780134303024). The content in the access codes is the same whether you get the regular or the digital package.

To purchase this package from Canvas class website, you click on MyPsychLab, MyVirtualLife, or eText. It will ask you to make a purchase or to enter an access code. If you already purchased the package through the UF bookstore, you should have the code—enter that code as instructed. If you are buying it for the first time,
select ‘purchase’ option and follow the instructions to purchase the package. Once you purchased and entered your information, it won’t ask you to enter any code.

**MyDevelopmentLab (MyPsychLab):** MyDevelopmentLab will give you access to all required course materials: eText, MyVirtual Life, videos and practice quizzes.

**eText:** Once you have purchased/have access to eText (Canvas), click on the link to access your digital textbook. You will need it to complete your weekly reading assignments, usually one chapter per week. You are responsible for viewing all MyDevelopmentLab Margin Icons embedded in eText. They will take you from the reading material to MyDevelopmentLab videos and activities. The links to some of these videos and activities are also posted in the modules.

**MyVirtual Life:** You will be required to complete My Virtual Life simulations and write two short papers. Once you have purchased/have access to MyVirtual Life (Canvas), click on MyVirtualLife link to access the program. You don’t need to join any class since your progress in the program will not be monitored. Work at your own pace, but be mindful of the deadlines! The Raise Child written paper is due Oct 1, 11:59pm, and Adult Simulation paper is due Nov 5, 11:59pm.

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**WEEKLY QUIZ ASSESSMENTS (130 points)**

There will be a quiz for each chapter covered in this class, a total of 14 quizzes. One (lowest) quiz will be dropped, and only 13 quizzes will be counted towards your final grade. Each chapter quiz consists of short 20 objective questions (multiple choice format). Each item is worth 0.5 point. So each quiz is worth 10 points. Items are drawn at random from a larger pool of items, so no two people may receive the same quiz. Chapter quizzes are not cumulative; each quiz pertains to the material covered in a particular week/module, including lectures, discussions, readings and videos for that week. The quizzes are timed and must be completed within certain specific time frames. Most quizzes will be opened at 7 am on Thursday and closed on Sunday, 11:59pm (exceptions are module 7 and 14 quizzes; see syllabus for dates). You will not be able to take quizzes after the deadline. The answers will be automatically released as soon as the quizzes will close; they will remain open for one full week during which time so you can review the correct answers and make necessary inquiries (the answers will close immediately after).

The quizzes are relatively easy and most students do well on them—the average fluctuates between 85 and 90.
IMPORTANT: You are responsible for the strength and reliability of your internet, and for using a reliable computer. If you lose internet connection due to issues with your computer or internet, you will not be allowed to retake quizzes or the final exam. If the interruption in connection is caused by the issues in Canvas, contact e-learning help desk right away and get verification. My decision about letting students retake quizzes will be determined on an individual basis. Since the chances of experiencing technical issues more than once in a semester are very small, no one will be allowed to retake more than one quiz.

GROUP DISCUSSIONS (20 POINTS)

Find your group and introduce yourself by August 31, 11:59pm in your Group Introduction Discussion Board (0.5 point). You will participate in 13 group discussions but only 12 will count (12*1.5 point=18.5 points). Thus, you may miss one discussion or replace the lowest discussion grade with the higher extra one.

Each discussion will pose a question or a set of questions and you will be asked to give an opinion. To receive full credit, (1) the length of your response should be at least one paragraph, and (2) your opinion should be substantive and persuasive (i.e., support your opinion with evidence that you can find in our class material or from other reliable sources). In addition to posting your answers, you will have to respond to two other posts from your group discussion forum.

IMPORTANT: Many online students have jobs, families and various other responsibilities. They organize their schedules ahead of time. Thus, it is important that when an assignment involves interaction with other students everyone completes his/her part on time. To make group discussions go as smoothly and as stress-free as possible, the deadline for posting individual opinions is Saturday (for exceptions see class schedule), 11:59pm, and the two peer replies must be completed by Sunday, 11:59pm. Be aware that Canvas will only display the individual post due dates.

MY VIRTUAL CHILD SIMULATIONS & WRITING ASSIGNMENTS (50 POINTS)

You will complete two simulations and write two short papers. First, you will raise a virtual child with My Virtual Child simulation program; and then you will write a paper (instructions can be found in Raise Child MVL assignment in Canvas). Then, you will simulate an adult life and complete one more short paper (instructions can be found in Adult Simulation MVL assignment in Canvas). Please carefully read the instructions for both papers before launching the programs. I strongly recommend that you familiarize yourself with the directions and the format of
these assignments as early as possible and start working them as early as you can.

Inquiries about MVL papers (e.g., questions, ask for help, etc.) should be made at least 24 hours before their due dates to ensure that you will receive our response on time (before papers are due). Questions can be sent to class instructor or TAs via Canvas mail.

Please know that the average score on the papers is a B, and many students will see a slight drop in their overall grade after completing them.

FINAL EXAM (100 POINTS)

Final exam will be cumulative (chapters 1-14, including all required course material). However, you will only be tested on the higher-level concepts rather than on minutia or fact memory questions. Thus, if you read your textbook, watch my lectures and learn course material through assignments, you will do well on the exam. Inquiries about the exam should be sent to course instructor at least 24 hours in advance to ensure that you receive the response on time.

IMPORTANT: You are responsible for your internet strength and reliability, and for using a reliable computer. If you lose internet connection due to issues with your computer or internet, you will not be allowed to retake the final exam. If the interruption in connection is caused by issues in Canvas, contact e-learning help desk and get verification. The decision to allow retaking the final exam will be determined on an individual basis and will be based on the cause of the issue.

EXTRA CREDITS

There will be three possible ways for you to earn some extra credits. I offer them to boost everyone’s final grade (without giving any favors); and this works especially well for those who are close to the next letter grade at the end of the semester. Please consider taking these opportunities (don’t miss the due dates if given) as this will be the only opportunities to get a “bump” in your final grade.

- **Study participation (must complete 3 surveys) (4 points):** The first two surveys will be administered between Sep 6-20, 11:59pm; the third survey will be open between Nov 30 and Dec 7, 11:59pm.
  - Alternative assignment to earn 4 points is to complete an article summary, due Nov 30, 11:59pm.
- **Group Discussions:** Students who will consistently make unique and thought-provoking comments and who will spark exciting debates will receive 2 extra
points. Your TAs will monitor group discussions and will mark excellent posts with ‘likes’ throughout the semester.

- **Mid-Semester Survey (0.5 point):** Around the middle of the semester (Oct 9-15) provide feedback on how the course is progressing at the moment. I will send a reminder 😊.

**POLICY FOR DISPUTING GRADES**

You will have one week after the release of the grade, *except for the final exam dispute which must be submitted by Dec 9, 11:59pm*, including weekends and holidays, to dispute it (disputes are defined as questions about the material on quiz or assignments), and will NOT be accepted after the deadline.

If you want to dispute a grade you will need to write a paragraph explaining the dispute (write out the question on the quiz or explain the part of the assignment in detail). Quiz disputes must be sent to my Canvas mail (your instructor). Disputes about MVL writing paper or discussions should be sent to your graduate TA via Canvas mail.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

1. **Week 1: Aug 21-27: An Orientation to Lifespan Development (Chapter 1)**

2. **Week 2: Aug 28-Sep 3: Genetics, Prenatal Development, and Birth (Chapter 2)**
   - Group Introduction Discussion due Aug 31, 11:59pm.
   - (Week 2) Group Discussion #1 due Sep 3-4, 11:59pm.
   - Module 2 Quiz, Sep 1-4, 11:59pm.
   - Complete the first two years of MVL raise a child simulation

3. **Week 3: Sep 6-10: Physical Growth and Aging Across the Life Span (Chapter 3).**
   - (Week 3) Group Discussion #2 due Sep 10-11, 11:59pm.
   - Module 3 Quiz, Sep 8-11, 11:59pm.
- Emotional Attitudes Survey (Study Extra Credit Participation)
- Social Attitudes Survey 2 (Study Extra Credit Participation)
- Complete the childhood stage in MVL raise a child simulation

4. **Week 4: Sep 11-17: Cognitive Growth; Piaget and Vygotsky (Chapter 5).**
   - (Week 4) Group Discussion #3 due Sep 17-18, 11:59pm.
   - Module 4 quiz, Sep 15-18, 11:59pm.
   - Complete the Adolescence stage in MVL Raise a child simulation

5. **Week 5: Sep 18-24: Language Development (Chapter 7).**
   - (Week 5) Group Discussion #4 due Sep 24-25pm.
   - Module 5 quiz, Sep 22-25, 11:59pm.
   - Complete MVL raise a child simulation and start working on paper

6. **Week 6: Sep 25-Oct 1: Social and Emotional Development (Chapter 9).**
   - (Week 6) Group Discussion #5 due Oct 1-2, 11:59pm.
   - Module 6 quiz, Sep 29-Oct 2, 11:59pm.
   - Complete MVL Raise Child Assignment, due Sep 30, 11:59pm
   - MVL Child Simulation Lab (screen shot of completion), due Sep 30, 11:59pm

7. **Week 7: Oct 2-6: Development of the self (Chapter 10).**
   - (Week 7) Group Discussion #6 due Oct 10-11 (extended due to Homecoming)
   - Module 7 quiz, Oct 6-11, 11:59pm (extended)
   - Begin working on MVL Adult simulation.

8. **Week 8: Oct 9-15: Moral Development and Aggression (Chapter 11).**
   - (Week 8) Group Discussion #7 due Oct 15-16, 11:59pm.
   - Module 8 quiz, Oct 13-16, 11:59pm.
   - Optional Mid semester survey (0.5 extra point), due Oct 15, 11:59pm.
   - Complete MVL Early Adulthood stage

9. **Week 9: Oct 16-22: Friends and Family (Chapter 13).**
   - (Week 9) Group Discussion #8, due Oct 22-23, 11:59pm.
   - Module 9 Quiz, Oct 20-23, 11:59pm.
   - Complete MVL Middle Adulthood stage.

• (Week 10) Group Discussion #9, due Oct 23-30, 11:59pm.
• Module 10 quiz, Oct 27-30, 11:59pm.
• Complete MVL Adult Simulation.

• MVL Adult Simulation, Due Nov 4, 11:59pm.
• MVL Adult Simulation lab (screen shot of completion), due Nov 4, 11:59pm.
• (Week 11) Group Discussion #10, due Nov 5-6, 11:59pm.
• Module 11, Nov 3-6, 11:59pm.

12. Week 12: Nov 6--12: Gender and Sexuality (Chapter 12).
• (Week 12) Group Discussion #11, due Nov 12-13, 11:59pm.
• Module 12 Quiz, Nov 10-13, 11:59pm.

• (Week 13) Group Discussion #12, due Nov 19-20, 11:59pm.
• Module 13 Quiz, Nov 17-20, 11:59pm.

• (Week 14) Group Discussion #13, due Nov 30-Dec 1
• Module 14 quiz, Nov 26-30, 11:59pm.
• Social Attitudes Survey 3(Study Extra Credit Participation), due Dec 7, 11:59pm. Or Extra Credit Article Summary due Nov 30, 11:59pm.

15. Week 15-16: Dec 1-7: Final Exam will be open on Dec 7 between 7am and 11:59pm. All inquiries about final exam grades must be emailed to instructor by Dec 9, 11:59pm.
• Social Attitudes Survey 3(Study Extra Credit Participation), due Dec 7, 11:59pm.
1. All communication will be done in Canvas.

If you have any questions/comments pertaining to

✓ Course administration, not time sensitive: post your question in Technical issues and course materials errors/FAQ discussion board.
✓ Course concepts: post your question in Course Concepts discussion board.
✓ If you do not receive an answer from either FAQ or Course Concepts discussion boards within 24 hours, contact instructor or TA by Canvas mail.

*Discussion boards will not be monitored on Saturdays and Sundays.

If you have a question about
✓ quiz or final exam grade, email instructor.
✓ group discussions, email me graduate or undergraduate TA.
✓ MVL assignment grades, email graduate TA.

Do not post questions or information about your grade on the FAQ board.

*CANNOT CONTACT INSTRUCTOR OR TA 8 HRS BEFORE an ASSIGNMENT IS DUE!!!
✓ In the case of a serious medical condition, a family emergency or other situation that will keep you out of class a week or more, email me (your instructor) to mklimenko@ufl.edu.

2. All interactions with instructors and among class members are expected to be professional and appropriate. Students are encouraged to answer each other’s questions on the FAQ and Course Content Board.

3. Announcements: Occasionally, announcements will be made if there are any changes to class schedule or assignments.

4. Extension of deadlines may be requested ONLY for university excused absences with adequate documentation. Requests for an extension must be based on University approved reasons and must include proper documentation as per University guidelines. Requests for extensions must be made before the deadline, if possible, or within 24 hours of the deadline for unexpected emergencies.
5. Computer/internet access to e-learning is required for this course. Students are responsible for maintaining access to e-learning.
   ✓ Extensions will not be given for student-based technical difficulties. Do not wait until the last minute to complete assignments and quizzes! Do not take your quizzes on the bus! Use a land connection instead of Wi-Fi.
   ✓ If UF e-learning experiences technical difficulties, deadlines will be adjusted to allow for completion of assignments.

6. This course adheres to all University Policies. See http://www.dso.ufl.edu/ for useful information at the Dean of Students Office webpage.

7. Academic Honesty: This course uses the definitions and guidelines for academic honesty as described by the Dean of Students Office. See http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.php for details.

8. Students with disabilities: requesting accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. See http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/ for details.

9. Religious Observances: Please check your calendars against the course syllabus. Any student having a conflict due to religious observance should contact me as soon as possible so that we can make any necessary arrangements.

10. Copyright Statement: Some of the materials in this course are possibly copyrighted. They are intended for use only by students registered and enrolled in this course and for instructional activities associated with and for the duration of the course. They may not be retained in another medium or disseminated further. They are provided in compliance with the provisions of the Teach Act.

11. Syllabus Change Policy: Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice. If changes are made to this syllabus they will be announced and/or emailed. It is your responsibility to check for announcements and/or email of changes online.
12. Extra Help: Contact me as soon as possible for extra assistance if you discover you are having trouble. I want you to do well!

GRADING

Your final grade is based on the total number of points you accumulate. Your grade will be calculated by summing the points you earn on quizzes and assignments.

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentage of your Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (13)</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>~0.44 or 44%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group introduction &amp;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Discussions (12)</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td>~0.06 or 6 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>My Virtual Child Writing Assignments</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>~0.17 or 17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>~0.33 or 33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>298.5</strong></td>
<td>~100%</td>
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GRADING SCALE

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<th>%</th>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90% &amp; up</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87% &amp; up</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
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<td>-------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83% &amp; up</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80% &amp; up</td>
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<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>&lt;60%</td>
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</tbody>
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**How to Calculate Your Grade in the Class:**

\[(\text{Grade X \% assignment is worth}) + (\text{Grade X \% assignment is worth}) = \text{Grade in class}\]

*The good news is – these grades are firm – there is no curve. Everybody in the class can get an A grade and I hope you do.*

*The bad news is – these grades are firm – there is no curve. If you score just a quarter of a point below the cutoff then you will receive the lower grade.*