Syllabus
Developmental Psychology: Childhood (PSYC 161)
Online, summer 2008
July 14 – August 15

Instructor Contact Info
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You are free to contact me by email anytime. Please use the aol account listed above for the fastest response. I do check my UVM account, as well, but with less regularity (lbennigs@uvm.edu).

Please feel free to call me, as well. You can call my cell phone anytime. Be aware that I do not have cell service from my home, so it is not the best place to leave messages as it may be a couple of days before I drive into cell range and find your message. It is best to leave messages at my home phone. You are free to call me at home anytime between 8:30 am and 9:30 pm. Please respect these hours, as they coincide with when my two daughters will be sleeping!

One more note regarding contact…if you have a technical question, I am probably not your best resource. This is my first online teaching experience, and I will be learning the technology with you as we go along. There is 24 hour technical assistance available to all of us at: (info TBA)

Learning Objectives
This course will begin with an overview of the field and general issues impacting the field of child development. We will then focus on child development from conception through adolescence. We will explore different theories of child development, and we will track the process of physical, cognitive, and socioemotional development throughout childhood.

One of the wonderful things about an online course is that we are free of the traditional format whereby you read, and I lecture. I enjoy that this model is not even an option for us! Instead, our goal is to be actively engaged, as a team of co-learners, in this course experience. You will be invited, again and again, to apply what you are learning, to think critically, to expand on what you are learning, and to learn from and challenge each others’ developing ideas.

What you Need
/software needs TBA/
Required Text

MyDevelopmentLab: online access to e-tool that accompanies the text.

This text, and access to the accompanying e-tool, can be purchased at the UVM Bookstore. You can also purchase it directly from the publisher online, or you can look for a used copy online. If you buy a used copy online, please purchase access to the e-tool through the publisher’s online store (mypersonstore.com).

Work Expectations
Because this course happens in such a condensed time frame, as is always the case with summer courses, you should expect a pretty heavy work load for the next five weeks. I am not going to attempt to tell you how many hours you will be putting in…that number will vary depending on your reading speed, learning style, etc.. But here are the basics. You will need to read three chapters in the text each week, and complete all corresponding assignments, including discussion posts and other written and research assignments that accompany each module. If you do not have adequate time for this significant commitment, I recommend you consider taking this course during the school year, instead. If you choose to continue with us, I look forward to the fast paced journey with you!

Communications
Timeline for Discussions
I plan to touch base with the course at least 5 times per week to respond to questions and be involved in discussions. If you have an urgent question, contact me by email or phone.

You will see that I generally do not have specific due dates for assignments. Assignments are usually due anytime during the week in which we are engrossed. For example, week 2 of the course corresponds with Module 2, in which we will be studying infant and toddler development (VERY fun!). Assignments for this module will be due anytime during week 2. There are some exceptions to this, one of which is the discussion posts. We cannot have an effective discussion throughout the week if everyone posts their ideas on the last day of the week. So, there will be dates by which you need to post your original response to each discussion question. The ensuing discussions will not have specific due dates, and continue as long as there is interest, even if we have moved into the next module. For guidance about what is expected of discussion posts, please read the Discussion Rubric. READ IT!!! THIS IS IMPORTANT! (There will be a link to this document in Blackboard when the course begins).
Announcements
If I have general announcements for all of you, I will contact you via the announcements tool on the home page, and/or via a group email.

Individual Communication
See Instructor Information on this page for phone and email contact information.

Online Office Hours
I do not have set online office hours. I will check my phone and email messages regularly, along with checking in with the course as often as possible (minimum of 5 times per week) for ongoing communication, instead.

Respond Turn Around Time
My goal is to respond to questions within 24 hours. The exact response time will vary. Remember that if your question is urgent, you are invited to contact me via personal email or phone.

Grading Policy
Your grade will be determined based on the evaluation of all of your assignments and participation. Be sure to read the grading rubric for each of the assignments listed below for more guidance about what is expected and how your grade will be determined.

Discussion: 25%
Creative Text Extensions: 25%
Quizzes: 15%
Future Research Questions: 10%
Observation Paper: 25%
# Course Schedule

## Module #1, July 14 – July 20: Introduction to the Field, Prenatal Development & Birth

**Readings:**
- Chapter 1: Exploring Child Development Due 7/16
- Chapter 2: Heredity and Environment Due 7/18
- Chapter 3: Prenatal Development & Birth Due 7/20

**Assignments:**
- Discussion Question and Responses, #1 Due 7/16
- Discussion Question and Responses #2 Due 7/18
- Discussion Question and Responses #3 Due 7/20
- Creative Text Extension #1 Due 7/20
- Post Future Research Question Due 7/20

**Quiz:**
- For Module #1 Due 7/20

## Module #2, July 21 – July 27: Infants and Toddlers

**Readings:**
- Chapter 4: Physical Development Due 7/22
- Chapter 5: Cognitive Development Due 7/24
- Chapter 6: Socioemotional Development Due 7/26

**Assignments:**
- Discussion Question and Responses, #4 Due 7/22
- Discussion Question and Responses #5 Due 7/24
- Discussion Question and Responses #6 Due 7/26
- Creative Text Extension #2 Due 7/27
- Post Future Research Question Due 7/27

**Quiz:**
- For Module #2 Due 7/20

## Module #3, July 28 – August 3: Early Childhood

**Readings:**
- Chapter 7: Physical Development Due 7/29
- Chapter 8: Cognitive Development Due 7/31
- Chapter 9: Socioemotional Development Due 8/2

**Assignments:**
- Discussion Question and Responses, #7 Due 7/29
- Discussion Question and Responses #8 Due 7/31
- Discussion Question and Responses #9 Due 8/2
- Creative Text Extension #3 Due 8/3
- Post Future Research Question Due 8/3

**Quiz:**
- For Module #3 Due 8/3
Module #4, August 4 – August 10: Middle Childhood

Readings:  
- Chapter 10: Physical Development Due 8/5  
- Chapter 11: Cognitive Development Due 8/7  
- Chapter 12: Socioemotional Development Due 8/9  

Assignments:  
- Discussion Question and Responses, #10 Due 8/5  
- Discussion Question and Responses #11 Due 8/7  
- Discussion Question and Responses #12 Due 8/9  
- Creative Text Extension #4 Due 8/10  
- Post Future Research Question Due 8/10  

Quiz:  
- For Module #4 Due 8/10  

Module #5, August 11 – August 17: Adolescence

Readings:  
- Chapter 13: Physical Development Due 8/12  
- Chapter 14: Cognitive Development Due 8/14  
- Chapter 15: Socioemotional Development Due 8/16  

Assignments:  
- Discussion Question and Responses, #13 Due 8/12  
- Discussion Question and Responses #14 Due 8/14  
- Discussion Question and Responses #15 Due 8/16  
- Creative Text Extension #5 Due 8/17  
- Post Future Research Question Due 8/17  

Quiz:  
- For Module #5 Due 8/17  

Final Project  
- Observation Paper Due 8/17