Course objectives
This course is designed to provide an integrated overview of contemporary issues in human development and to discuss up-to-date empirical research findings on a number of content topics, including cognitive, social and emotional development. Diverse developmental pathways and processes of risk and resilience across the lifespan will be discussed throughout the course. A number of multimedia materials will be presented in class to aid better understanding of topics.

Reading requirements:
Selected empirical articles listed on the syllabus now or to be added as the course progresses.

Course requirements
- Class attendance and participation: Students will be expected to attend and actively participate in all classes. If you cannot attend, please let me know in advance.
- Pick one topic of your choice from the list of topics shown, present two articles in detail in class and lead class discussions once for 30-40 minutes.
- Two term papers. The purpose of these two term papers is to develop expertise in an area of your interest, to become acquainted with APA style, to practice writing a scientific paper, and to develop a perspective as a researcher/practitioner.

Mid-term paper
- Select five to seven empirical papers of the same topic published since 2000 in developmentally-oriented journals, and provide a summary and critically evaluate them.
- The mid-term paper should not exceed 8 pages, excluding references. Double-space the paper, use one-inch margin all around, and adopt 11-12 font size. Follow the guidelines of the APA publication manual.
- The paper is due on 10/29/2008.

Final paper
- Add five to seven empirical papers of the same topic to the mid-term paper, and write a more in-depth continuation paper. Make sure to include in the Introduction section why we should care for this topic.
- The final paper should not exceed 12 pages, excluding references. Double-space the paper, use one-inch margin all around, and adopt 11-12 font size. Follow the guidelines of the APA publication manual.
- The paper is due on 12/17/2008.

Grading
- Class participation and attendance (40%)
- Mid-term paper (30%)
- Final paper (30%)
Weekly Outline

Week 1: 9/3
Introduction and Overview
  • Chapter 1: Concepts and Theories of Human Development
  • Secret of the Wild Child, 1994 (50 min) [VHS] IRIS 2-7408

Week 2: 9/10
Nature and Nurture
  • Chapter 4: Developmental Neuroscience, Psychophysiology, and Genetics
  • The Baby Human: To Talk, 2004 (40 min) [DVD]

Week 3: 9/17
Physical and Motor Development
  • Chapter 5: Physical and Motor Development
  • The Baby Human: To Walk, 2004 (40 min) [DVD]

Week 4: 9/24
Design, Measurement, and Analysis in Developmental Research
  • Chapter 3
  • The Perry Preschool Project: The Age 40 Results

Week 5: 10/1
Design, Measurement, and Analysis in Developmental Research

Week 6: 10/8
Perception, Cognition, and Academic Functioning
  • Chapter 6: Perceptual Development
• The Baby Human: To Think, 2004 (40 min) [DVD]

Week 7: 10/15
Adolescent Cognitive Development and Academic Achievement
• Secret Life of the Brain – Adolescent, 2001 (40 min) [DVD]

Week 8: 10/22
Individual Differences and Atypical Development
• Growing Up Different, 2001 (50 min – Williams Syndrome, Autism, Hearing, Cerebral Palsy) [DVD] IRIS 2-6978

Week 9: 10/29
Puberty
Week 10: 11/5

Temperament, Emotion, Self, and Personality

- Chapter 9: The Individual Child: Temperament, Emotion, Self, and Personality
- Mother Love, 1960 (25 min) [VHS] IRIS D-85

Week 11: 11/12

Peer Relationships in Childhood and Adolescence

- Chapter 11: Peer Relationships in Childhood and Adolescence
- Mahoney et al. (2002). Structured after-school activities as a moderator of depressed mood for adolescents with detached relations to their parents. *Journal of Community Psychology, 30*(1), 69-86.

Week 12: 11/19

Parent-Child Relationships in Childhood and Adolescence

- Chapter 10: The Role of Parent-Child Relationships in Child Development
- Mary Ainsworth: Attachment and the Growth of Love, 2005 (35 min) [DVD] IRIS 10-669

Week 13: 11/26

Resilience, Positive Development, and Developmental Psychopathology


Week 14: 12/3
Cognitive Development in Adulthood and Old Age
• Secret Life of the Brain – Aging Brain, 2001 (30 min) [DVD]

Week 15: 12/10
Social and Emotional Experience in Adulthood and Old Age

Note: The weekly topics, schedules, and multimedia contents are subject to change, if needed.