

# Psychology 199: Development Through The Lifespan Spring 2012

*"In developmental psychology ... there is never an absolute beginning." - Jean Piaget*

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I typically respond quickly to e-mail IF **in the subject line you type "Psy 199 Web" and then a brief description of the topic, e.g., "Psy 199 Web - Quiz question."** It is professional behavior and courteous to clearly label your mail. Thank you to those who consistently do this.

**If you do not use the Psy 199 Web subject line, your email may end up in my junk mail.**

I typically respond within 24 hours during weekdays. I may be in on the weekends but I don't guarantee it. If you haven't heard from me in 2-3 days, e-mail again with **Psy 199 Web & topic in the subject line**

## **Required Text:**

Berger, K. S. (2010). *Invitation to the lifespan*, 1<sup>st</sup> edition. Worth Publishers.  
978-0716754664



**Course Description:** PSY 199 introduces the principles of developmental psychology as seen in human growth over the entire lifespan focusing primarily on infancy through adolescence. Emphasizes theory and data relating to developmental aspects of cognition, language, and personality.

**Course Objectives:** The primary objective of this course is to introduce the student to some fundamental topics that comprise the discipline of developmental psychology.

This course fulfills a portion of **WKU's Category C (Social and Behavioral Sciences) general education requirement**. This course fulfills a portion of WKU's general education program and addresses the following general education goals:

1. Provides an understanding of society and human behavior that
  1. describes methods of inquiry appropriate to the scientific study of societal institutions and human behavior
  2. examines patterns of interaction pertaining to race, gender, ethnic identity, class, community, and other forms of social grouping
  3. evaluates the impact of heredity and environment on human development and individual behavior

**Description of Course Requirements and Assignments:**

1. **Course Content:** Your primary source of *course content* will be the textbook. I will provide supplements to the textbook in the form of short videos, articles etc. and guide you in the direction of questions you should ask as you read.
2. **Civility:** Students are expected to show respect to each other and to the instructor. This includes refraining from unconstructive criticism or demeaning language. The instructor will provide one warning for any incident of disrespect. Any further incidents will result in dismissal from class.
3. **Extra Credit:** Over the course of the semester I may provide extra credit opportunities. While these opportunities will likely be made available to students, extra credit is just what it sounds like: extra. Any instance of plagiarism will result in loss of all extra credit
4. **Late work and Make-ups:** Make-up quizzes and exams will be given at the discretion of the instructor. The validity of an excuse given as a reason for missing an exam will be determined by the instructor. If you do not have a good excuse, a creative one may be accepted. The instructor reserves the right to give make-up exams which are be more difficult or in a different form than the original. You should make arrangements now for a back-up plan to access Blackboard if your primary computer or internet connection fails.

**Not having access to a computer or internet access will not be an acceptable excuse for not finishing coursework on time. This is, after all, a web course. If you do not have a reliable means of accessing Blackboard, you should reconsider the wisdom of taking an online class.**

5. **Technology/Media:** This class will use Blackboard for all assessments unless otherwise stated. Blackboard will also be used to provide additional resources, such as news items, articles, videos, etc related to topics in psychology. Students are expected to be proficient in the use of Blackboard and able to search for information on the internet. Documents sent from me will be sent either directly in an email or in Adobe pdf format. You can download the Adobe reader at <https://www.adobe.com/products/reader.html>.

If this is your first time in Blackboard, spend some time exploring and experimenting. Visit <https://asaweb2.wku.edu/atech/trainingsite/index.php?fuseaction=calendar.tutorials> for tutorial videos.

If you have any technical problems, the best resource for resolving them would be WKU's IT helpdesk (270-745-7000). There is also a link on the left side of the Blackboard course page.

6. **University Policies:** You must follow all policies and regulations regarding academic dishonesty, plagiarism, etc. as stated in the WKU undergraduate student handbook. Cheating and/or plagiarism will result in an automatic "F" for the entire course. Disrespect and harassment will not be tolerated under any circumstances, and will lead to removal from the course.
7. **Accommodations:** In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for **Student Disability Services** in DUC A-200 of the Student Success Center in Downing University Center. Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.
8. **The Learning Center (TLC)** (located in the Academic Advising and Retention Center, DUC-A330). Should you require academic assistance with this course, or any other General Education Course, there are several places that can provide you with help. TLC tutors in most major undergraduate subjects and course levels throughout the week. To make an appointment, or to request a tutor for a specific class, call 745-6254 or stop by DUC A330. Log on to TLC's website at [www.wku.edu/tlc](http://www.wku.edu/tlc) to find out more. TLC hours: M-Thur. 8am-9pm, Fri. 8am-4pm, Sat.-Closed, and Sundays 4pm-9pm.
9. **Plagiarism** Randomly selected and/or suspicious material will be checked for plagiarism using the original document, plagiarism detection (text matching) software, search engines or copies of prior student projects.

Copying another person's work (in any form, including images, Web pages, textbooks, etc.) without giving credit is plagiarism.

Copying the exact words and giving credit is still plagiarism unless you indicate which words are yours and which words are the other persons' by means of quotation marks. You are doing the paper to learn how to express yourself well, not to copy. Your textbook authors deserve quotation marks and page numbers in papers. In papers, cite the author properly. Rephrase, rephrase, rephrase. (Simply copying large amounts and using quotation marks is also a form of plagiarism. It is supposed to be your thoughts).

A copy machine can duplicate material. You are a scholar who must think about (rephrase) an idea to own it. **Plagiarism will result in 0 points on the product and loss of extra credit or a 0 in the class depending on the frequency and severity of the offense.**

### **Examinations and Grading:**

Your overall grade in this class will be based on two components:

2. (775 points) There will be a short (20-30 question) multiple-choice quiz associated with each section. The book is divided into 7 parts, each focusing a period of life. Each quiz will be taken online through Blackboard. You will have two attempts at each quiz. If you choose to use the second attempt, the final grade will be based on the average on the attempts. Each quiz will be timed. If you do not complete the quiz within the time limit, you will lose points. You are allowed to use your book for all of the quizzes.
3. (700 points) There will be a series of 7 writing assignments. Each writing assignment will consist of a short essay (between 300 and 600 words). Essays that are too short or too long will lose points. There will be a number of possible essay questions to choose from for each assignment. Each essay will be turned in through Blackboard.

Your grade will be calculated like this:

Chapter Quizzes (775) + Writing Assignments (700) + Extra Credit

A = 1327 - 1475

B = 1180 - 1326

C = 1032 - 1179

D = 885 - 1031

F = 0 - 974

Note: the syllabus quiz is required to remain in the class, but it does not count toward your final grade.

### **There are three deadlines in this course:**

1. 27 January – Syllabus quiz due
2. 9 March – The first 3 quizzes and 3 writing assignments are due

3. 4 May – Quizzes 4-7 and, last four writing assignments, and extra credit are due

All deadlines are at Midnight Central time. Any coursework that is not completed by the due date will be counted as a zero. I recommend not waiting until the last minute to do your work. In my experience, it rarely turns out well.

**\*The instructor reserves the right to make changes in the course as is deemed necessary.**