

Development in Middle Childhood – FACS 277 online Western Kentucky University

INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Qingfang Song

Office: Academic Complex 411D

Phone: (270) 745-4229 (Office)

Email: qingfang.song@wku.edu

Zoom ID: 822 255 9077

Office Hours: 12:30-2:30 (M/W/F in person; T/R on Zoom) or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Course Description: Introduction of theories and research on children's physical, cognitive, and social/emotional development during middle childhood years (6-12 years old). Exploration of impact from important developmental contexts in middle childhood, including family, school, community, and other sociocultural factors. Development of interpersonal skills to interact with children in middle childhood years and critical thinking skills to apply course materials to analyze field experiences. Field experiences will be required. Students are responsible for their own transportation.

Course Rationale:

Middle childhood represents an important developmental stage, which bridges early childhood and adolescence, and yet is uniquely different from those two stages. In recent years, there are a lot of new studies and findings regarding the development in middle childhood.

This course aims to not only provide students with knowledge of classic and cutting-edge research findings but also enhance their skills to serve children and families in the community. It is in alignment with WKU's mission to "prepare students of all backgrounds to be productive, engaged, and socially responsible citizen-leaders of a global society".

Course Outcomes:

1. Identify and describe the main ideas of major theories relevant to middle childhood development.
2. Describe characteristics of physical, cognitive, and social/emotional development in middle childhood years.
3. Describe the impact of developmental contexts during middle childhood years.
4. Develop interpersonal skills to interact with children in middle childhood.
5. Apply the knowledge to identify the developmental patterns and characteristics of children in hypothetical situations as well as in the field experience.
6. Apply the knowledge to identify and evaluate the impact of various contexts in hypothetical situations as well as in the field experience.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Berk, L. E. & Meyers, A. B. (2023). *Infants and children: Prenatal through middle childhood* (9th ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE publications, Inc.

Cooper, C. R., Coll, C. T. G., Bartko, W. T., Davis, H. M., & Chatman, C. (2015). *Developmental pathways through middle childhood: Rethinking contexts and diversity as resources*. Psychology Press.

You are responsible for obtaining your book by the beginning of the semester. They are required readings and all materials listed will be used during the semester.

Additional articles for reading may be required. These articles will be posted on blackboard.

Other Resources:

- Blackboard issues: **270-745-7000**
IF YOU CANNOT POST TO BLACKBOARD OR HAVE DIFFICULTY POSTING,
CALL: 270-745-7000 (Information Technology)
 - **If you do not know ANYTHING about blackboard, training is provided at wku.edu/it.**
 - You may also call the afore listed phone number for Information Technology.**
 - **cannot teach you blackboard or assist you with blackboard problems. IT has been designed to assist you with that.**

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION: This course will be conducted on the Internet and it will not meet in a classroom. Being self-motivated and able to work independently is important for success in this class.

1. Group discussion via online discussion board.
2. Independent reading in textbooks and supplemental material including internet sites requiring Adobe Reader and PowerPoint presentations.
3. Group and individual written projects submitted in Microsoft Word or designated forms.
4. Viewing of videos and audio on the internet.
5. Two and half (2.5) clock hours of field experience.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Regular use of a computer with internet access and a web browser.
2. Familiarity with surfing the internet, reading email and sending email.
3. An activated WKU email account that is checked daily (all email will be sent to a WKU email address and only to a WKY email address).
4. Access to Adobe Reader.
5. Ability to read PowerPoint slides.
6. Ability to view videos and audios on internet.
7. Actively participate in class via online activities.
8. Submit designated written assignments in Microsoft Word or other designated programs via Blackboard. Works and Word Perfect are NOT accepted.
9. Complete weekly online assignments.
10. Complete online exams.
11. Participate in 2.5 hours of fieldwork.
12. Obtain any documentation required by facility for fieldwork, if appropriate.
13. Provide own transportation to conduct field work activities.
14. Maintain confidentiality of all information gathered about children and families through the field experience.
15. Maintain professionalism online by being respectful of comments by other students, never being rude, not using inappropriate language, or other such activity. Violation of this standard will lower your grade.

EVALUATION

Your grade for the course will be based on the assignments listed below.

Grading Procedures: I grade on a percentage scale based on your total number of points compared to the total number of points available for the class as follows:

A = 100-90% B = 89-80% C = 79-70% D = 69-60% F = anything below 60%

3 Exams	160
Observation Assignment	85
Interview Assignment	85
Discussion Points and Weekly Assignments	90
Total Points:	420

Materials containing plagiarism (see Academic Integrity Policy below) will NOT be graded and you will receive a “0” for the assignment. This means that you MUST reference all materials from other sources AND use quotation marks according to APA guidelines. Never use more than 2 direct quotes in any one assignment.

EXAMS. Students’ knowledge about child development will be evaluated through four exams. These exams will cover all assigned readings from the first textbook. The exam may include objective (e.g., fill-in-the-blank, multiple choice, short answer) and essay questions. There will be **NO MAKE-UP** exams except under **extreme** situations with proper documentation (e.g., doctor’s note, funeral program) and when I am notified in advance.

Observation Assignment: During the first half of the semester, you will be expected to observe a child (6-11 years old) for 1.5 hours (more details will be posted later). When you observe you will be expected to keep a transcript of that what happens with one child. In addition to the transcript you may also write your personal thoughts about the play and interactions of the child highlighting different developmental elements that you observe.

Interview Assignment: During the second half of the semester, you will be expected to interview a child (6-11 years old) for 1 hour (more details will be posted later). When you interview you will be expected to keep record of the questions you ask and brief notes of the child’s answer. In addition, you may write your personal thoughts about different developmental contexts for the child.

YOU are responsible for proof of completion of observation and interview hours by submitting your record logs and transcript/notes. Without the logs I do not know if you have completed the hours or not. If you do not complete all 2.5 hours AND submit the required materials, you will receive an “F” in the class.

Discussion Points/Weekly Assignments/Participation: Throughout the semester a variety of assignments and participation activities will be given each week. These assignments cannot be made up if missed and no late work will be accepted. Quality of work will be graded and points will be lost if answers do not pertain to the topic and/or if they are not well thought out.

During the semester you will have the opportunity to earn up to 15 extra points through discussion points/weekly assignments/participation.

Most weekly assignments will be on the discussion board. Your discussions points will be based on the interaction that you have on the discussion board. Remember, these are to be quality responses that come from your own thoughts and are supported by your readings.

All original answers on discussions boards are due by 11:59 pm Wednesday of the week the question is assigned. Comments to classmates are due by 11:59 pm Friday of the week.

Due dates for all materials for this class are listed on the FACS 277 Class Schedule.

Missed assignments will affect your grade directly and indirectly through performance with online assignments, exams, and class participation. All reading assignments **MUST BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO CLASS** on the date indicated on the class schedule. If the instructor suspects that students are not completing reading assignments prior to completing online assignments, your grade may suffer.

CLASS POLICY STATEMENTS

Participation: Students are expected to participate in all class discussions and exercises. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor if assignment deadlines are not met due to extenuating circumstances. Students are responsible for initiating arrangements for missed work.

Late Assignments: Late assignments will NOT be accepted unless there are extenuating circumstances. Appropriate documentation will be required. Documentation must be provided within two weeks of extenuating circumstances. Routine medical appointments and court appearances (except jury duty) are not considered excusable absences. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the professor to resolve any missing work upon their return to class. In general, late assignments will have points deducted from the grade.

Field Experience: This course requires **2.5 hours of field experience**, which includes 1.5-hour child observation and 1-hour child interview. Students are expected to identify and select child and school and make arrangements for their field activities. Students are responsible for their own transportation. **Failure to complete the fieldwork will result in a failing grade for the class.** An incomplete grade will not be given for failure to complete fieldwork required for final project. Some sites may require students to undergo criminal background checks, drug testing, a TB test, physical, or to provide proof of health insurance, liability insurance, and/or immunizations records prior to participating in any of the required experiences at selected off campus facilities/agencies. This is the student's responsibility. Students should check with their field site for the specific requirements of that site. Failure to complete these requirements for a field placement may result in delaying the field experience and possibly failing the course.

As policy, the College of Health and Human Services and the faculty will not keep this information on file. Students should keep a copy of all documentation for their files. If you are an education major, you should have a TB skin test, a physical and a criminal background check on file in the College of Education. If you are an out of state student doing your field hours outside of Kentucky, you should check to see what your state requires.

Special Instructional Materials: Students must have an active and valid email address for this class. Information may be sent to the entire class via email. Western Kentucky University provides an email address to every student. This is the official email address for all University information, including this class. Students will also need to have a current version (preferably 2013 or later version) of Microsoft Word. Blackboard does not recognize Notepad or Works. Blackboard will not open Word Perfect, Works, or Notepad.

Plagiarism Policy: To represent written work taken from another source as one's own is plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious offense and is considered an act of Academic Dishonesty. The academic work of a student must be his or her own. One must give any author credit for source material borrowed from him or her. To lift content directly from a source without giving credit is a flagrant act. To present a borrowed passage without reference to the source after having changed a few words is also plagiarism. This policy also applies to any media material used in this class, including but not limited to, photographs, floor plans, lesson plans, learning activities. Students who commit any act of academic dishonesty may receive a failing grade in the course. The faculty member may also present the case to the Office of Judicial Affairs for disciplinary sanctions.

Academic Dishonesty: Students who commit any act of academic dishonesty may receive from the instructor a failing grade in that portion of the coursework in which the act was detected or a failing

grade in the course without possibility of withdrawal. The faculty member may also present the case to the Office of Judicial Affairs for disciplinary sanctions.

Drop Policy: Should the student decide to drop the class, it is their responsibility to do so. Failure to drop a class will result in a failing grade for that class.

Disability Accommodations Statement: In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, 1074. SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email at sarc.connect@wku.edu. Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a Faculty Notification Letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

Title IX Misconduct/Assault Statement: Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070) at <https://wku.edu/eoo/documents/titleix/wkutitleixpolicyandgrievanceprocedure.pdf> and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040) at https://wku.edu/policies/hr_policies/2040_discrimination_harassment_policy.pdf.

Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121.

Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center at 270-745-3159.

COVID-19 Regulation: All students are strongly encouraged to get the COVID-19 vaccine. In accordance with WKU policy, all students must call the WKU COVID-19 Assistance Line at 270-745-2019 within 4 hours of testing positive for COVID-19 or being identified as a close contact to someone who has tested positive. The COVID Assistance Line is available to answer questions regarding any COVID-19 related issue. This guidance is subject to change based on requirements set forth by federal, state, and local public health entities. Please refer to the Healthy on the Hill website for the most current information. www.wku.edu/healthyonthehill

Inclusion Statement: Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to ensuring all members of our campus community have access to equitable and inclusive learning, working, and living environments. At the heart of our mission, we seek to provide holistic education and employment experiences that prepare students, faculty, and staff to become effective scholars, contributors, and leaders in our diverse and evolving communities. Consistent with our campus purpose statement and creed, this classroom will be a respectful space, welcoming all sexes, races, ages, national origins, ethnicities, gender identities/labels/expressions, intellectual and physical abilities, sexual orientations, faith/non-faith perspectives, income levels and socio-economic classes, political ideologies, educational backgrounds, primary languages, family statuses, military experiences, cognitive styles, and communication styles. If at any time during this course you are excluded or feel a sense of alienation from the course content, please feel free to contact me privately without fear of reprisal.

Land Acknowledgement Statement: The history of our community and land gives us the opportunity to recognize, respect, and appreciate our place within that history. Western Kentucky University (WKU) honors and acknowledges the Indigenous peoples' land on which this University was built. All land in the state of Kentucky was once Indigenous territory, which is why it is our duty to acknowledge that WKU exists on Native land. This particular region of Kentucky was home to both the Shawnee (Shawandasse Tula) and Cherokee East (CWJᏍᏊᏊᏍ Tsalaguwetiyi) tribes.

We also honor and acknowledge the former residents of Jonesville. According to the Jonesville History Project, "Jonesville was a predominantly African American community in Bowling Green, Kentucky, that was demolished in the 1960s to make way for the expansion of the WKU campus. This incident echoed a pattern across the country where the power of eminent domain was utilized to seize property from minority communities for large public works projects under the guise of urban revitalization."

