

**PSYC 110: LIFE SPAN DEVELOPMENT**  
**Fall 2008**

**Section 18:** MW 12:25-1:40 p.m.  
**Location:** NEIU – El Centro, Rm. 107

**Instructor:** Lindsay Maldonado, M.S.  
**Contact:** 773.755.5100 ext. 5028 or [lmaldonado@naturemuseum.org](mailto:lmaldonado@naturemuseum.org)  
**Office hours:** After class or by appointment

**Course Description.** This course focuses on human development across the life span. We will study the physical, cognitive and psychosocial changes that occur from birth until death. You will have an opportunity to examine and evaluate current research and theories used to describe and explain human growth and change.

**Text.** Belsky, J. (2007) Experiencing the Lifespan. New York, New York: Worth Publishers.  
**The textbook is required.**

**Exams.** Three exams will be given during the semester. Check the course calendar for exam dates and material covered. Each exam will be worth 40 points and will be composed of multiple choice and true-false questions. **You will need a #2 pencil to complete the exam, please bring one on exam days. If you are late more than 10 minutes late, you missed the exam! There are no make-up exams!**

**Final Exam.** There is no final exam, only the last (third exam) non cumulative exam scheduled during the final exam week. Check course calendar for date and time.

**Attendance.** Your attendance and participation is expected. If you choose to miss class, it is your responsibility to acquire the materials covered during that time. You may not participate in any extra credit assignments that occur during your absence and I will not accept an extra credit assignment if you miss class on the day that it is due.

**Plagiarism/Cheating/Academic Misconduct.** If you engage in any of these behaviors and are caught, you will earn an F for the course and be referred to the Dean of Students for further action. Not sure if your behavior constitutes plagiarism/cheating or academic misconduct, ask me!

**Course Grade.** Your course grade will reflect your performance on the exams, papers and extra credit and will be calculated using the following scale:

**A = 180-200 points**  
**B = 160-179 points**  
**C = 140-159 points**  
**D = 120-139 points**  
**F = Below 120 points**

**Papers.** There are three papers. Papers must be typed and turned in at the beginning of class. I will not accept untyped or late papers. If you anticipate missing a required assignment please meet with me before it is due so that you can still complete the assignment. This must be done before the assignment is due and not after you have failed to complete an assignment.

**Research Article Review (20 points): Due September 29**  
**Reflection Paper (20 points): Due November 10**  
**Observing Human Behavior (40 points): Due December 1**

**Extra Credit.** Opportunities to receive extra credit will be given throughout the semester. More information will be discussed in class and posted on blackboard. You can not make up extra credit.

**LIFE SPAN ON BLACKBOARD (Bb)**

**Website.** All course materials are located on the blackboard site. When you registered for this class, you were automatically added to the Bb site. The Bb address is:

neiu.blackboard.com

**Your NetID is the only username that will work in Bb. Only NEIU e-mail addresses will work in Bb.**

If you try to log with a different username, you will receive an error message. Go to the NEUport Home Page (<http://neuport.neiu.edu>) to set up your passwords and look up your e-mail address. If you need assistance, call NEUport Help at 773-442-4230.

## PSYCH 110 COURSE SCHEDULE

<b>August 25, 27</b>	Introduction and Overview Forces that impact our development Theories of Development	Chapter 1
<b>September 1, 3</b>	Labor Day – no class Birthing Process	Chapter 2
<b>September 8, 10</b>	Prenatal Development	Chapter 2
<b>September 15, 17</b>	Neonatal Development	Chapter 3
<b>September 22, 24</b>	Attachment & Socialization Cognitive Development in Childhood	Chapter 4 & 5
<b>September 29, October 1</b>	Social & Emotional Development in Childhood	Chapter 6
<b>October 6, 8</b>	Exam 1 Review EXAM 1 (Chapters 1-6)	
<b>October 13, 15</b>	Parenting	Chapter 7
<b>October 20, 22</b>	Adolescent Physical Development Adolescent Sexuality & Contraceptives	Chapter 8
<b>October 27, 29</b>	Moral Development Social and Emotional Development	Chapter 9
<b>November 3, 5</b>	Young Adulthood Identity Development Emerging Relationships and Intimacy	Chapter 10
<b>November 10, 12</b>	Adult Role Development	Chapter 11
<b>November 17, 19</b>	EXAM 2 Review EXAM 2 (Chapters 7-11)	
<b>November 24, 26</b>	Middle & Late Adulthood Intelligence & Cognitive Development Social & Emotional Development	Chapter 12-13
<b>December 1, 3</b>	Physical Changes in Old Age Death & Dying	Chapter 14 Chapter 15
<b>December 8, 10</b>	Exam 3 Review Exam 3 (Chapters 12-15)	

## Papers

Research Article Review, Due: September 29

**Description.** You will read and analyze one journal article from the choices below. The articles are:

Aydt, H. & Corsaro, W.A. (2003). Differences in children's construction of gender across culture. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 46 (10), 1306-1325.

Caldera, Y.M., Huston, A.C., & O'Brien, M. (1989). Social interactions and play patterns of parents and toddlers with feminine, masculine, and neutral toys. *Child Development*, 60, 70-76.

Pederson, D.R. & Moran, G. (1996). Expressions of the attachment relationship outside of the strange situation. *Child Development*, 67, 915-927.

**Analysis.** You will have to read your article several times before attempting this section. Do not hesitate to ask for help. This is especially true if you do not understand what you have read or what was discussed in class. You never lose points for asking a question but will fail to earn points if you don't understand the psychological concepts you are discussing in your paper. Your analysis should include the following information about the article. You will earn more points if you explain each of these points. Listing single words or short responses will give you few points on this assignment.

- Purpose of the study, research question(s) and hypothesis(es).
- Type of research method (naturalistic or manipulative)
- Variables (independent and dependent or correlated pairs of variables)
- Control groups
- Method of data collection (how did they do the study?)
- Results (use your own words...don't use statistical terms you don't understand)
- What was known by previous researchers and what did this study add to that knowledge?
- Were there potential flaws or ethical problems?
- How could the study be improved?
- What other variables could be investigated in this research area.

**Format.** Your project must be typed, double-spaced. 1-inch margins (top, bottom, left and right) and 12 point font.

**Length.** Approximately 5 pages but remember, it's quality of not quantity. If your paper is substantially shorter than the estimate, go back and make sure that you have addressed all parts of the assignment and you have discussed each part in a thoughtful and thorough manner. Be sure to use your own words, avoid plagiarism and give credit when you use an author's idea or words.

### Reflection Paper, Due: November 10

**Description:** You are to read an article on developmental issues or topics pertaining to one developmental group. For example, I might choose the effect of teratogens on prenatal development or the influence of school bullying on the development of self-esteem. You can choose from the following groups, early childhood (birth through preschool), school-age/adolescence, or adults. After reading your article, summarize the main points and discuss what you learned. Remember to add relevant theory and content from class readings and lectures.

**Format.** Your project must be typed, double-spaced. 1-inch margins (top, bottom, left and right) and 12 point font.

**Length.** Approximately 3-5 pages but remember, it's quality of not quantity. If your paper is substantially shorter than the estimate, go back and make sure that you have addressed all parts of the assignment and you have discussed each part in a thoughtful and thorough manner. Be sure to use your own words, avoid plagiarism and give credit when you use an author's idea or words.

**\*You may not use the examples already given.\***

### Observing Human Behavior, Due: December 1

**Description.** You will collect data about human behavior using television programming as your source. Choose one of the topics below:

Parenting  
Marriage  
Dating  
Moral reasoning  
Adolescents  
College students  
Middle Age adults  
Senior citizens  
Death

**Analysis.** Choose your topic and then identify your data source (i.e. TV program). For example, I chose parenting and I have decided to compare Homer and Marge Simpson on their approach to parenting Bart, Lisa and Maggie. Before I start watching The Simpsons, I read up on parenting styles and become familiar with the types of behaviors associated with of the parenting styles. I then make a grid listing the different behaviors (e.g., uses physical punishment, uses praise). I'll have a separate grid for Homer and one for Marge. I decide to focus only on their interactions with Bart when I realize that there may be little interaction with Maggie and Bart's behavior may elicit many more interesting responses from his parents than would Lisa's behavior. I will collect my data using my grids. These grids will be turned in with your project. Turn on the TV and watch at least five episodes.

Or....I could be interested in the difference between soap opera and crime shows portrayal of senior citizens. There are endless possibilities. If you have an idea talk to me in class or via email and we can come up with a research question and a data source.

**Format.** You will use the format of the journal article you read in the first project. Those sections are:

- Review of the literature. Tell me what is currently known about your topic. You can use the text, lecture and, of course, reading another journal article will always contribute to your knowledge and accumulating point total.
- Purpose, research question(s) and hypotheses
- Method (how did you collect your data) Give a step by step description so that your experiment can be replicated by anyone reading your method section. Details are very important....you are giving the directions to repeat your study.
- Results. Describe and summarize what you've found. You can try some easy statistics like a mean, mode or a median or even present a data table or graph. The data grids will be attached in an appendix at the end of your paper.
- Conclusions. How closely does television programming conform to what you have read about your topic? How realistic were the portrayals of the behavior? Be sure to comment on the effect of television programming on your ideas about human behavior and development.
- References. Be sure to cite and avoid plagiarism.
- Appendix. Data grids and any other interesting things that support your paper.

**Length.** Approximately 5-8 pages but remember, it's quality of not quantity. If your paper is substantially shorter than the estimate, go back and make sure that you have addressed all parts of the assignment and you have discussed each part in a thoughtful and thorough manner. Be sure to use your own words, avoid plagiarism and give credit when you use an author's idea or words.

**\*You may not use the example already given.\***