

George Mason University
Fairfax Campus
Syllabus
Spring 2012

Child Psychology – Psychology 313 – Section 003
Instructor: Richard Amernick, M.A, C.A.S.

CLASS LOCATION: Nguyen Engineering Building – Room 1107

PHONE: 703-914-6975 (FCPS Work Number – 24 hour voicemail)

EMAIL: ramernic@gmu.edu

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday Evenings 6 – 7 pm – Location – Aquia Building Room 337

DATES: January 24, 2012 to May 15, 2012

DAYS: Tuesdays

TIME: 7:20 pm to 10:00 pm

REQUIRED TEXT: Berk, L.A. (2011). *Infants and Children: Prenatal through middle childhood*, 7th Edition.

- I. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course, Child Psychology, is the study of human psychological development from conception to adolescence including such topics as genetic factors, emotional and intellectual growth, and environmental influences.
- II. **CLASS PROCEDURES:** This class is a mixture of lecture and small group discussion.
- III. **TECHNOLOGY:** You should have access to your masonlive email account and check it regularly for class related emails.
- IV. **REQUIREMENTS:**

ATTENDANCE: Active discussion and contributions from each member of the class will be encouraged and expected. Regular attendance is optimal to perform well in this course as some of the material on examinations will only be mentioned in class. Also, if you miss a class you will not be able to make up any assignments given that day unless due to emergency. If you are absent from a class, it is your responsibility to obtain material covered in class and to make up any missed assignments whenever possible. It is also your responsibility to withdraw from class if you are unable to attend. Failure to withdraw may result in you receiving a failing grade for the class.

EXAMINATIONS: There will be four examinations, one after each unit (Infancy; Early Childhood; Middle Childhood) and a Final Exam. Exams will have 50 multiple choice questions and be worth 50 points towards your final grade for a total of 200 total possible points. If you need more time to complete an examination, you should speak with the instructor prior to exams and arrangements will be made accordingly. Make up exams will only be permitted in unusual circumstances and must be arranged with the instructor before the exam is given. After each exam, students can leave and no instruction will take place that evening.

INTEREST PROJECT: During the course of the semester, you will be asked to complete one (1) interest project of interest to you that falls within the realm of Child Psychology. You can choose a topic of interest to you (could be a theorist, a theory, or something related). You will meet with the instructor to view the interest topic and then towards the end of the semester, you will present your topic. This could be done in two ways (either a 10 to 15 minute presentation to the class) on your topic OR a 5 page double spaced paper (not including title page or reference page) on the topic using APA

format with references included. The paper must include a summary of the topic and application of the information. The interest project will be worth 50 points towards your final grade.

TWO MINUTE DRILLS: At the beginning of each class session, excluding exam days, I will present a question that can be answered in a short summary. The material for each question will be taken from either the previous class lecture or the assigned reading for that day. They will be graded on a 0-2 point scale (0 = not correct; 1 = semi-correct; 2 – fully correct). These will be collected after two minutes, so please make your best effort to attend lectures on time to receive credit. These will begin on January 31st. There will be 9 of these worth a total of 18 possible points towards your final grade.

EXTRA CREDIT: I will count half of the points (25 points maximum) of your lowest exam toward your final grade. This is meant to be either (1) a reward for those who consistently perform well throughout the semester or (2) a way to compensate for unforeseeable circumstances that have hindered performance at some point throughout the semester for specific individuals.

GRADING: The final grade you receive for this course will be calculated as follows based on a combination of all exams and writing assignments.

Based on Percentage (Points earned out of 293)

A+ (4.0) = 100 - 97	A (3.77) = 96 – 93	A - (3.33) 92 - 90
B+ (3.0) = 89 - 87	B (2.77) = 86 – 83	B - (2.33) 82 – 80
C+ (2.0) = 79 - 77	C (1.77) = 76 – 73	C - (1.33) 72- 70
D (1.0) = 69 – 60	F = below 59	

Possible Points: Exams - 200 points (50 points each)
Interest Project – 50 points
Two Minute Drills – 18 points
Extra Credit – maximum of 25 points toward final grade

Total: 293 possible for 4 exams (200 points), interest project (50 points), two minute drills (18 points), and extra credit (25 points maximum).

Last Day to Add Class: January 31, 2012

Last Day to Drop Class: February 24, 2012

SUGGESTIONS FOR SUCCESS:

1. Read the assigned chapters prior to coming to class and be prepared for class discussion.
2. Take notes during class and review your notes prior to the next class session.
3. If you do miss a class, find out from a study buddy or partner what you missed from the previous week.
4. If you need help, ask for it. Meet with me individually, call my office or email me.

DISABILITY STATEMENT:

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

HONOR CODE:

To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the university community have set forth this honor code: **Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.**

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

TOPIC	CHAPTER(S)
1/24 History/Theory/Research Strategies	1
1/31 Infants and Toddlers: Physical Development	5
2/7 Infants and Toddlers: Cognitive Development	6
2/14 Infants and Toddlers: Social Emotional Development	7
2/21 Exam 1	
2/28 Early Childhood: Physical Development	8
3/6 Early Childhood: Cognitive Development	9
3/13 Spring Break (No Class)	
3/20 Early Childhood: Social Emotional Development	10
3/27 Exam 2	
4/3 Middle Childhood: Physical Development	11
4/10 Middle Childhood: Cognitive Development	12
4/17 Middle Childhood: Social Emotional Development	13
4/24 Exam 3	
5/1 Presentations/Papers Due	
5/8 Reading Day (No Class)	
5/15 Final Exam (Cumulative)	