Instructor: Anondah Saide, PhD
Office Hours: (see hours below and by appointment)

Course Description
Study of the physical, cognitive, and socio-emotional development and learning of children and adolescents, ages 3 through 18.
Prerequisite(s): none

Required Textbook

Course Learning Objectives
Student will be able to:
1. Identify developmental milestones in early childhood through late adolescence.
2. Understand the major theories guiding research and practice in human development.
3. Articulate the impact of culture on development from age 3 through 18.
4. Utilize your newfound knowledge to analyze and evaluate the skills, and level of understanding of different children and adolescents.
5. Investigate topics of your own interest in development.
6. Apply concepts of development to help you understand your own life history and contemporary debates in child and adolescent development.

Class Rules & Guidelines

Email. If you need to contact the instructor outside of lecture or office hours, please email (anondah.said@unt.edu) with the following subject header, “UNT 3123 Question”. The instructor will email you back within two business days.

Instructor’s Office Hours. (see announcement on canvas page)

Attendance. Students are expected to attend all classes regularly and punctually. If you no longer want to be in the class, YOU have to drop the class. The instructor will not do that for you.

Words of caution: Even though attendance does not directly count towards your grade, if you miss lectures on a regularly basis, it will be nearly impossible for you to do well on the exams!

If you have to miss class, the only acceptable reasons are: (a) ill health (i.e., only with a note from a doctor or medical institution), (b) jury duty or mandatory court appearances, or (c) religious holidays. In order for the absence to be excused, you have to provide verifiable documentation that
you were unable to make it to class. Absences in observance of religious holidays are authorized only if you have notified your instructor in writing within the first 2 weeks of the semester.

**Make up policy.** If you miss an exam for an acceptable reason (see above), you must notify and provide documentation to the instructor within three (3) business days from the time the exam was given to the class. If the reason is considered acceptable, it will be your responsibility to set-up a time with the instructor to make-up the exam within one week from the time exam was given. Writing assignments have to be turned in by the day noted on the syllabus under all conditions because they are turned in electronically and you can turn them in before the day they are due. Due dates are already posted.

**Academic Integrity.** It is the responsibility of each student to be familiar with UNT’s Policy on Academic Integrity. Plagiarism, copying, cheating, or giving assistance to other students during examinations is a violation of academic integrity. **Cases of suspected cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the Dean of Students office.** Any and all work submitted in order to meet the requirements of this course must be originally created for this course. You may not turn in anything submitted for another course and/or section of this course you have previously taken.

University Policy 06.003 states, “UNT promotes the integrity of learning processed and embraces the core values of trust and honesty. Academic integrity is based on educational principles and procedures that protect the rights of all participants in the educational process and validate the legitimacy of degrees awarded by the university. In the investigation and resolution of allegations of student academic dishonesty, the university’s actions are intended to be corrective, educationally sound, fundamentally fair, and based on reliable evidence.” Here is the link to additional information on this policy: [https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.003.pdf](https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.003.pdf)

For more information on what constitutes plagiarism, as well as tips on citing your resources, visit [www.plagiarism.org](http://www.plagiarism.org). If you require clarification on what counts as academic dishonesty, it is your responsibility to ask the instructor of the course.

**Technology Use.** Using electronic recording or any other communications devices (such as MP3 players, cell phones, pagers, recording devices, etc.) in the classroom to record lectures or during exams without the explicit permission of the instructor is strictly prohibited. If you are caught doing so, you will be asked to leave the classroom and will not be granted points for any assignments or exams that are associated with that day. Exceptions will be made for students that have a note from the Office of Disability Access.

**Academic Accommodations.** The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at [http://disability.unt.edu](http://disability.unt.edu). You may also contact them by phone at (940) 565-4323.
**Emergency Notification and Procedures.** UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify you with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). The system sends voice messages (and text messages upon permission) to the phones of all active faculty staff, and students. Please make certain to update your phone numbers at [http://www.my.unt.edu](http://www.my.unt.edu). Some helpful emergency preparedness actions include (1) knowing the evacuation routes and severe weather shelter areas in the buildings where your classes are held, (2) determining how you will contact family and friends if phones are temporarily unavailable, and (3) identifying where you will go if you need to evacuate the Denton area suddenly. In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

**Retention of Student Records.** Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. You have a right to view your individual record; however, information about your records will not be divulged to other individuals without the proper written consent. You are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the university’s policy in accordance with those mandates at the following link: [http://essc.unt.edu/registrar/ferpa.html](http://essc.unt.edu/registrar/ferpa.html)

**Grade Disputes.** If students are concerned about the grade they received on an exam or assignment, they should feel comfortable talking to their instructor about it. Students must submit a typed request explaining the rationale for the grade change. Students must dispute their grade within five (5) business days of receiving it or the instructor will not consider the dispute. Decisions regarding grade disputes are made at the discretion of the instructor.

**Canvas.** We will be using Canvas in this course. Your grades, the syllabus, course announcements, and assignment rubrics will all be posted on our course Canvas page. As a student, it is your responsibility to check Canvas on a regular basis (i.e., at least once per week) for course updates.

**Course Structure**

**Grading.** The final grade students receive in this class will be based upon the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (4 x 12.5)</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Health Module</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two-Part Integration Project</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Exams.** Please see the course calendar for when these are scheduled. Students will be given four (4) exams/quizzes during the semester and one (1) final exam. Each will consist of 25 multiple-choice, fill in the blank, and/or, true/false type questions. The exams will be based on material from: (a) the readings, (b) supplemental material provided in the lectures, and (c) participation activities. Each exam is time-limited: you will have 40 minutes. If you are late to the exam but no one else has turned their exam in yet, you will have the remaining time to take your exam (e.g., you arrive 10
minutes late, you will have 30 minutes to take the exam instead of 40 minutes). If you arrive after another student has already turned in their exam, you will not be allowed to take it. Once the exam begins, you will not be allowed to leave unless you have turned the exam in.

**Health Module.** Texas Senate Bill 460 requires that, “college students training to be educators will study characteristics of mental and emotional disorders among children, as well as effective strategies for teaching, intervening with students, de-escalation techniques and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports” ([http://www.tedd.texas.gov/texas-teachers-to-study-mental-health-positive-behavioral-interventions//](http://www.tedd.texas.gov/texas-teachers-to-study-mental-health-positive-behavioral-interventions//)). You will be required to do 3 out of 6 training modules from a course developed by Texas which educate participants about the behavioral health needs of people who have an intellectual or developmental disability (IDD). The entire online course with the 6 modules takes approximately 4 hours to complete; however, you are only required to complete three and supple proof of completion. You can print a certificate at the end of each module. The modules included in this course are:

1. Co-occurring disorders: IDD and Mental Illness
2. Trauma informed care for individuals with IDD
3. Functional Behavior Assessment and Behavior Support
4. Overview of genetic syndromes associated with IDD
5. Overview of medical diagnoses associated with IDD
6. Putting it all together: Supports and strategies for direct service workers

*A link to the modules will be posted on Canvas a week before they are due.

**Two-Part Integration Project.** We will have one major writing assignment for this class. This assignment is meant to help you learn how to: (1) find and utilize appropriate scholarship, and (2) articulate and apply developmental concepts to real-world scenarios and/or issues. For this assignment you write an opinion editorial; in other words, you write a short paper arguing for your position on a developmentally-relevant issue (e.g., vaccinations, childcare, etc.) The rubric for this assignment will be discussed in class and posted on Canvas.

**Writing Center.** Writing assignments constitute a significant portion of your grade, I encourage you to seek out assistance from the Writing Center: [https://writingcenter.unt.edu/](https://writingcenter.unt.edu/)

**Course Calendar**

*(For the course calendar, refer to our course Canvas page)*

**Additional Information on Meeting Basic Needs:** Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students for support. Furthermore, please notify me if you are comfortable doing so. This will enable me to provide any resources that I may possess. Information on the UNT food pantry can be found at [http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry](http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry)

*How to contact Dean of Students Office:*
Office of the Dean of Students
University Union, Suite 409
(940) 565-2648 | deanofstudents@unt.edu