Contact Information  
Phone:  678-839-0602  
Email:  All email correspondence for this class will be done through our Course Den site.

Office Hours  
MW 1:00-3:00  
During these times I will be available both in my office (Melson 105) for face to face meetings. I will have a 24 hour turn around policy for all course related questions which come to me outside of office hours.

Required Text  

Course Description  
This course provides you with an overview of the central theories of human development; these theories then provide a lens through which we address major milestones of development across the lifespan. The course places a specific focus on how gender, family systems, environment, culture, social and historical systems impact development.

Course Objectives  
By the end of this course you will be able to:

1. Identify major theoretical perspectives in development psychology;  
2. Apply theoretical perspectives to an understanding of critical life span development milestones.  
3. Use life span development theories and tools to understand your own developmental trajectory.  
4. Understand the way in which large systems (i.e. political, economic, cultural) impact life-span development.  
5. Critically read and understand published articles in the field of developmental psychology.  
6. Work in teams to develop both written and oral presentations.  
7. Demonstrate through both the written and oral word your understanding of life span development.  
8. Articulate the major developmental challenges of our day.  
9. Use developmental theory and practice to craft responses to these challenges.

Course Requirements
1. Discussion Questions. There will be 6 discussion questions due throughout the semester. Each discussion question will cover 2 to 3 chapters of our text. In order to get full credit for each of the discussion questions you must clearly bring in theories, research and ideas discussed in your text book.

2. Genogram assignment: Described in detail below.

3. Quizzes: We will have three quizzes throughout the semester.

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<th>Discussion Questions</th>
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<td>Genogram assignment:</td>
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<td>Quizzes:</td>
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Course Schedule

Week 1  1/7  Introduction to each other and to the course.
Week 2  1/14 Topic One: A Cultural Approach to Human Development
Week 3  1/21 Topic Two: Genetics and Prenatal Development  
        Discussion Question 1 Due: Friday January 25 by midnight.
Week 4  1/28 Topic Three: Birth and the Newborn Child
Week 5  2/4  Topic Four: Infancy  
        Discussion Question 2 Due: Friday February 8 by midnight.
Week 6  2/11 Topic Five: Toddlerhood  
        Quiz 1 Friday February 15: Chapters 1 to 5.
Week 7  2/18 Topic Six: Early childhood  
        Discussion Question 3 Due: Friday February 22 by midnight.
Week 8  2/25 Topic Seven: Middle Childhood
Week 9  3/4  Topic Eight: Adolescence  
        Discussion Question 4 Due March 8 by midnight.
Week 10 3/11 Topic Nine: Emerging Adulthood  
        Quiz 2 Friday March 15: Chapters 6 to 9
Week 11 3/18 SPRING BREAK
Week 12 3/25 Topic Ten: Young Adulthood  
        Discussion Question 5 Due: Friday March 29 by midnight.
Week 13 4/1  Topic Eleven: Middle Adulthood  
        Due: April 5 Genogram assignment.
Week 14 4/8  Topic Twelve: Late Adulthood  
        Discussion Question 6 Due: Friday April 12 by midnight.
Week 15 4/15 Topic Thirteen: Death and Afterlife Beliefs
Quiz 3 Friday April 19. Chapters 10 to 13.

Week 16 4/23 Final Exam Week

Course Calendar

I posted a course calendar with due dates for each of the assignments,

Assignment Descriptions

Discussion Questions (DQs). I will post our bi-weekly discussion question by 9:30 each Monday morning. The due dates for each discussion question are posted in our course schedule as well as on our Course Calendar. You will submit your discussion question through a dropbox in our Course Den site. I do not accept late assignments so please make sure you leave yourself enough time to complete each of the discussion questions. Your answers must be thorough and free of grammatical errors. Your response is not solely your opinion about a topic and must be clearly substantiated by class readings.

Genogram: A genogram is a pictorial display of a family describing relationships and medical history that helps to visualize heredity patterns, emotional factors, and relationship alignments. Construct a genogram illustrating at least three generations of each side of your family. A genogram resembles a family tree and permits you to quickly identify and understand patterns in your family history. Most genograms include basic information about the number of family members, number of children of each family, birth order, and deaths. Information to include in the genogram would be family size, birth order, blood type, similar physical features and similar personality or emotional features, children named after other family members or relatives (name-sakes: Jr. John the Third, etc.), sibling rivalry or sibling favoritism, mental illness or psychiatric disorders, deaths, and unspoken family messages or family rules of conduct. You may need to call relatives to obtain the needed information.

After completing the genogram prepare a 700 to 1,400-word summary and analysis of your genogram. Be sure to assess the interaction and influences of genetics, heredity, environmental factors, socio-economic and socio-cultural factors on you and your family members. Consider the following characteristics in your summary and analysis:

1. Physical features: Hair, body shape, facial features; Family members with similar physical traits
2. Personality or emotional traits: Impulsiveness, interests, mannerisms, humor; Family member with similar personality or emotional traits
3. Psychosocial dynamics: unspoken family messages or family rules; parenting styles
4. Family size
5. Birth order
6. Blood types
7. Eye colors
8. Handedness (left handed or right handed)
9. Name-sakes

There are numerous websites which provide free software to create a genogram. The following link takes you to one of these websites and also gives some examples of genograms: http://www.genopro.com/genogram/examples.

You will submit your genogram through our Course Den site. There is one drop box for the genogram itself and a second drop box for the narrative.
Quizzes. The quizzes will cover the material in the textbook and will be multiple choice. Questions. You will have 2.5 hours for each quiz. Please make sure that you read the text book prior to taking the quiz so that you are familiar with the information and do not need to be rushed while you are taking the quiz.