Human Growth and Development
PSYC 3010-E02 Spring 2020
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Contact Information
Email: All email correspondence for this class will be done through our Course Den site. If you would like to speak by phone, please let me know and we can set up a time.

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. Demonstrate through both the written and oral word your understanding of life span development.
7. Articulate the major developmental challenges of our day.
8. Use developmental theory and practice to craft responses to these challenges.

Course Requirements
1. Genogram assignment: Described in detail below.
2. Essays: Due Dates below. Description posted on Course Den site.
3. Exams: There are three exams throughout the semester. They will be multiple choice.

Genogram assignment: 35%
Essays: 35%
Exams: 35%

Course Schedule
### Assignment Descriptions

**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 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

Please also include the following: a discussion of your experience of the process of collecting the information for your genogram; a discussion of the way in which the information reflected in your genogram helps you understand yourself better; implications of the information for your life on a day-to-day basis.

There are numerous free software programs available to create your genogram (I will post these on our course den site). You are, however, not required to use a software program and you can use powerpoint, word or even draw your genogram by hand, scan it, and submit it on-line. What is important in the pictorial representation of your genogram is that all the required information is there and easily legible.

Due October 18 by midnight. No late papers accepted unless by previous arrangement. If, due to technical difficulties, you are unable to post your assignment in D2L please send as an email attachment through D2L. There will be one drop box for the genogram itself and a second drop box for the narrative.

**Essays:** There are three essays due throughout the semester; see due dates above. I will post the description of each essay on our Course Den site. The essay must be typed and submitted via Course Den. These essays 500 and 700 words each and should be free of grammatical errors and typos.

**Exams:** There are four exams/quizzes throughout the semester. The information covered is described in the course schedule above. Each exam will have about 100 multiple choice questions. Please make sure you have read the chapters and are familiar with the chapter information before starting your exam.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is the act of taking someone else’s words and using them as your own. It can also mean taking someone else’s ideas and passing them off as your own. Plagiarism in either form is an act of academic dishonesty and is not tolerated. If I suspect you are plagiarizing in your paper I will, at the minimum, ask for a complete rewrite of the assignment and give you partial credit for the assignment as well as take appropriate disciplinary action. Please see Appendix A, Section 2.00 in the Student Handbook for a thorough discussion of academic dishonesty and its consequences.

**University Policy:** Please see the following website for university policy regarding common academic concerns as well as general study well-being:

http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf