

Developmental Psychology (PSY 2209)

Fall 2017

Syllabus, McDaniel College Budapest Campus

Instructor: Anna Babarczy
Meeting Times: Thursday
Office Hours: After class or by appointment

Contact Information

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(It is best to send SMS. I cannot pick up the phone if I'm teaching.)

Course Description

General Objectives

Developmental psychology studies the cognitive, social and emotional development of people from conception to the end of their lives. The course will adopt a life-span approach to developmental psychology and although the main emphasis will be on typical childhood and adolescent development, we will also look briefly at disorders of childhood development and at changes in cognitive, social and emotional functions in old age. Developmental psychology is an empirical science: Theoretical models of human development are tested and improved through observations and experiments. These models can help us understand why things may go wrong, how to help people with certain disorders, how to create better learning and work environments, and how to adjust our everyday environment to the needs of people as they change over their lifetime.

The main goals of the course are:

- To understand the basic principles and methods of developmental psychology
- To understand the applications of these principles to everyday life
- To develop critical thinking and problem solving skills

How the course will be conducted

The class meetings will mainly be conducted in a lecture/discussion format with great emphasis on discussion.

How this Course Meets the General Education Outcomes at McDaniel College

Outcome 1. Critical Thinking. Students successfully frame questions, gather and evaluate information from experience and appropriate sources, and support their own conclusions.

- We will discuss and evaluate theories of development both in class and through assignments.
- We will discuss personal experiences in the light of scientific theories.

Outcome 2. Communication. Students express themselves in writing and speech at a level appropriate to their class standing and their major field(s) of study.

- You will have the opportunity to critically evaluate many topics this semester in both written and oral form.

Required Text

Patrick Leman, Andy Bremner, Ross D Parke & Mary Gauvain, *Developmental Psychology*. McGraw-Hill 2012.

Course Components:

Exams: There will be two exams that will be worth 25% each.

Homework assignments: There will be short project assignments and each student will be required to give a ten-minute presentation to the class.

Project: You will be required either to write a critical literature review on a topic of developmental psychology or to collect data on a topic of interest to you and write a research report. You will give a presentation of your research as a final exam.

Assignments and Grading

Course Grade

Exam 1:	25%
Exam 2:	25%
Mini-presentations:	35%
Project report:	15%

Honor Code

You are expected to adhere to the McDaniel College Honor Code.

First and foremost, do not attempt to hand in any work that is not your own. This will result in a failing grade on the work, and it will be reported to the Dean.

Second, and perhaps a bit more difficult to understand, is the use of proper source citation. In composition you are expected to use outside sources, for example websites, critical essays, interviews, etc. Without proper citation, an essay is claiming that the author is the source of such information. This is a form of academic dishonesty, and it is taken seriously in this course. Grades will be affected severely by any violation.

Course Policies

Attendance

Your presence in class is required. If you miss more than three classes your grade will drop 1/3 of a letter grade. Then with each subsequent absence the grade will drop another 1/3 of a grade. If you must miss class for medical reasons, please provide a signed excuse from a doctor.

Tardiness

Attendance will be taken during the first fifteen minutes of class. If you cannot arrive in that time you will be marked absent.