

PSYX 330: Child Development

Summer 2021

Instructor Information

Instructor: Sarah Sweezy

Email: sarah.sweezy@umontana.edu

Office Hours: By appointment, via zoom

Required Text

Berk, L. E. (2013). *Child Development (9th Ed.)*. Boston: Pearson, ISBN-13: 978-0-205-14976-6
Digital or hard copy is fine.

Course Overview

This 3-credit course provides an overview of the major theories and empirical findings fundamental to Developmental Psychology, with an emphasis on the biological, cognitive, and social-emotional aspects of development from prenatal through adolescence.

Course Objectives

At the completion of this course, you should understand and be able to think critically about:

1. Major theories and principles of developmental science
2. Basic research methods used
3. Prenatal developmental and the newborn period
4. Developmental trends in physical, cognitive, and social/emotional development
5. Biological, social, institutional, and cultural factors that may affect development
6. Societal/cultural issues related to development
7. Interpretation and implications of research in developmental psychology

Course Assignments and Grading Criteria

440 total points available for the course between quizzes, lab assignments, and discussions.

Quizzes

- 240 points total, please read the chapters for the quizzes (do not rely on the powerpoint outlines!)
- Quizzes will be due at 11:55 pm every Friday
- Each week there will be 2 quizzes due
- Each quiz is 20 multiple-choice questions (1 point per question, 20 points per quiz), with 30 minutes allotted
- Only one attempt per quiz

Quizzes are administered using the **adaptive mode** that allows multiple attempts at each question before moving on to the next question but subtracts a penalty for each wrong attempt. For example, choosing the correct answer on the first attempt would earn 1 point, second attempt would earn 0.67 points, third attempt would earn .33 points, and fourth attempt would earn 0.00 points.

Lab Assignments

- 80 points total, for 2 paper assignments at 40 points each

These assignments are supplements to the required readings, quizzes, and discussions in class. They are described in full detail under “Lab” for each week and are available for review before the week that they are due. There are 2 “Lab” assignments across the semester (one during week 3 and one during week 5), and they are worth 50 points each. Labs are due by 11:55 pm on Friday of the week assigned.

Discussions

- 120 points total, for 3 discussion posts at 40 points each

Important: Discussion posts cannot be made up because of the interactive nature of this assignment. Remember, your classmates are depending on your posts so that they have something to reply to.

Regarding attendance, you are expected to make **one original post** in response to the forum’s main discussion question **plus three additional posts in reply to other students**. These four total posts (1 original, 3 replies) should span across **three separate days** throughout the week (12:00 a.m. Saturday – 11:55 pm Friday). Remember, posts/replies cannot be made up so you must submit one original post and three replies every week to receive credit. Please note that the quality of your posts/replies must be sufficient too, or no credit will be given. Criteria for quality is covered later in the syllabus.

To receive the full 40 points per discussion forum, your four posts minimum (1 original, 3 replies) must have high-quality content. **Additionally, your first, original post of the week must be submitted by 11:55 p.m. on Monday.** This helps ensure everyone has enough time to reply to each other. The following three charts below explain how discussion posts are graded according to attendance and quality.

Attendance Grading (40 points possible)		
Students must post replies on a <i>minimum of three separate days per week</i> . You can post more than three days, and post more than three times, but at a minimum, you must post on three separate days.	3 days	40 points
	2 days	30 points
	1 day	20 points
	0 days	0 points

Once the number of days is calculated, students are then graded based on their contributions to the discussion. The following points are deducted, not added, from the points earned above, to yield a final weekly “attendance” score (negative points are not possible, the lowest possible score is zero).

Students must make their original post to the discussion question in the weekly forum by 11:55 p.m. on Monday	Each day late (24-hours)	2 pts lost
Students must reply to a <u>minimum of three peers</u> by 11:55 p.m. on Friday . You can post to more than three, but at a minimum, you must reply to three of your peers. This promotes student engagement with each other, rather than just responding to the discussion questions posted by the instructor	3 peers	0 pts lost
	2 peers	5 pts lost
	1 peer	10 pts lost
	0 peers	15 pts lost

Once I have calculated your “attendance” score, then I grade the quality of your posts, as explained below. Again, the following points are deducted, not added, from the final “attendance” score, to yield a final weekly “discussion” score (negative points are not possible, the lowest possible score is zero).

Quality Grading		
Students must make detailed and thoughtful posts that reflect an appropriate application of emerging knowledge and vocabulary in the topic area. Each post must add value to the discussion and be related to the required readings for the week. Below are additional details of how I grade the quality of your posts.	Superior	0 pts lost
	Above Average	5 pts lost
	Average	10 pts lost
	Below Average	15 pts lost
	Unacceptable	20 pts lost

Quality Grading Descriptions

Superior. Your contributions demonstrate a complete mastery of the materials assigned. Your responses might integrate multiple views and/or show strong analysis and reflection on topics and other student’s posts. You provide evidence that you are reading the assigned materials and other student postings and are responding accordingly, bringing out interesting interpretations. You know the facts and are able to analyze them, apply them to real life scenarios and handle conceptual ideas. It is highly unlikely that you could get full credit in less than two paragraphs.

Above average. Your responses build on the ideas of other participants and dig deeper into assignment questions or issues. When you make intelligent posts during the week, including some good critique of the material, then you have demonstrated an understanding the material, are reading posts of your colleagues, and are contributing to the class. Your posts demonstrate confidence with the materials but may be just a bit off target in one area or another.

Average. You have meaningful interaction with other participants’ postings. Posts that state, “I agree” or “I disagree” and include a detailed explanation of what is disagreed or agreed upon and why, or introduce a perspective or concept that adds to the discussion. However, you may

have rambling, lengthy posts with no clear point, your writing has a lack of clarity and comprehension, or there are considerable typos and grammatical errors.

Below average. You answer questions asked by me or other students but do not expand upon your response or you answer questions based only on your opinion, rather than on research or proper evidence. Your posts are unusually short (one paragraph or less) and you fail to demonstrate a clear working knowledge of the material covered for the week.

Unacceptable. You will receive little credit in the week's discussion by just showing up and making trivial comments that do not add any new thought to the discussion. At the low end of the spectrum, if you are not in the discussion, you do not earn any points. Comments such as "I agree" or other one-sentence responses will also result in zero points. Copying and pasting from a website without providing your own substantial insight is also an unacceptable post – even if you have properly cited your sources. This assignment is an assessment of your understanding of the information covered in this class. Copying and pasting from websites does not demonstrate a working knowledge of the material.

Special Note: I check carefully for plagiarism in discussion posts. If you plagiarize, you will get a zero for the entire assignment. If you plagiarize a second time, you will fail the course. If you engage in flaming behavior (i.e., the act of posting offensive messages), you will get a zero for the entire assignment.

Course Grading

Final grades for the course will consist of your 11 best quizzes, 3 discussion posts, and 2 papers. Your final grade is the percentage of the total points earned divided by total possible points.

There is no course curve in this class.

The following chart breaks down the points for each assignment type.

Assignment type	Points
Quizzes (12, at 20 points each)	240 points possible
Discussion Posts (3, at 40 points each)	120 points possible
Lab Exercises (2, at 40 points each)	80 points possible
Total Points	440 points possible

The following chart shows the grade scale for the final course grade.

Final Course Grade	Number of points	Percentage
A	396 - 440	90% - 100%
B	352 - 395	80% - 89%
C	308 - 351	70% - 79%
D	264 - 307	60% - 69%
F	0 - 263	< 59%

Course Policies and Guidelines

Announcements

Students are responsible for all announcements made in class. These may include changes in policy, due dates, or assignments requirements. Announcements are posted in the announcements section of the course or are directly emailed to the students.

Technology Policies

Please contact UM Online if you experience technical difficulties. Though I would love to be able to help, I am not qualified to do so. ***Critical note: I do not allow technical issues for not having the proper software as reasons for late or incomplete work.*** To ensure your protection, please keep technical support contact information available offline and please do not wait until the last minute to complete your work each week! To access technical support (and save their contact information offline) please click on the “Tech Support” link to the left of the page.

Technical Alternatives

Also, keep in mind your technical alternative if you have computer difficulties. If you live near the University, campus computers are an option. Otherwise, consider the public library, an internet café, a computer at work, or a friend or family member’s computer. Have a plan of action in mind so that you can complete the required work each week if an issue arises.

Assignment Due Dates, Late Work, and Make-up Work

Assignments are due every week on Friday by 11:55pm MST. Please be sure to start your assignments early enough to complete them by the time the week closes.

Students cannot, under any circumstance, make up the discussion posts assignment. Due to the interactive nature of this assignment, students must be engaged in this process throughout the week each week in order to receive credit.

To make up multiple missed assignments it is mandatory that you 1) notify your instructor before the time of the assignment and 2) provide proper documentation verifying the reason for your absence. Examples of proper documentation include a medical note or a death or family emergency. Remember, prior notification and documentation is mandatory! You can provide documentation by 1) scanning and emailing documents, 2) mailing the documents, or 3) bringing them by my office during office hours. I do not allow students to make up work until I have received the proper documents. I do not allow make up work during the week of final exams.

Grades of Incomplete

Departmental and university policies regarding incompletes do not allow changing “incomplete” grades after one year has passed since the “I” was granted.

Academic Misconduct

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the [Student Conduct Code](#).

Plagiarism

The Student Conduct Code discusses plagiarism. However, it is a serious offense worth re-mentioning. This course requires students to adhere to APA format when citing, paraphrasing, or referencing sources. If you have plagiarized, either intentionally or accidentally, you will receive a zero on the entire assignment. If you plagiarize a second time, you will fail the course.

Netiquette

Students must engage in proper “netiquette.” Netiquette or “network etiquette” is a professional and mannerly way of communicating with others in the online medium. Failure to engage in proper netiquette will result in earning a zero for each assignment where an incident has occurred.

Disability Modifications

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and [Disability Services for Students](#). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or call 406-243-2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

Dropping/Adding/Changing grade option

Please refer to the [Registrar’s Office webpage](#) for information and policies.

Course Schedule

*The course calendar is subject to revision as necessary. Revised editions will be uploaded to Moodle.

Weeks	Readings	Discussions	Quizzes	Lab Assignments
Week 1 (5/10–5/14)	Chapters 1 and 2		Chapter 1 Quiz Chapter 2 Quiz	
Week 2 (5/15–5/21)	Chapters 3 and 4	Week 2 Discussion	Chapter 3 Quiz Chapter 4 Quiz	
Week 3 (5/22-5/28)	Chapters 5, 6, and 7		Chapter 5 Quiz Chapter 6 Quiz	Lab 1
Week 4 (5/29–6/4)	Chapters 9 and 10	Week 4 Discussion	Chapter 7 Quiz Chapter 8 Quiz	
Week 5 (6/5– 6/11)	Chapters 11 and 12		Chapter 9 Quiz Chapter 10 Quiz	Lab 2
Week 6 (6/12– 6/18)	Chapters 13 and 14	Week 6 Discussion	Chapter 12 Quiz Chapter 13 Quiz	