

COURSE INFORMATION & SYLLABUS
PSYC 3233 – 102 Developmental Psychology
Fall 2021

MWF 1:00 – 1:50

Room: DIL 101

Office: OD 117

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Don Knox
Email: don.knox@msutexas.edu
Office hours: by appointment

TEXTBOOK:

Required:

"Invitation to the Life Span" 4th edition. Kathleen Stassen Berger. Worth Publishers (Macmillan) – ISBN-13: 9781319254605 (pb)

General Description:

This course will be an introductory look at the psychological development of human beings across the life span. Focus of this course is on the major domains of development, including the (1) Physical, (2) Cognitive, and (3) Psychological/Emotional domains. The emphasis will be upon the latter two domains, with less attention given to the physical aspects of development, maturity, and aging. The course will also give more weight to the “outcomes” of development, being less concerned with the detailed steps of the developmental process. Course material will essentially follow the outline of your textbook, but additional material may be presented from time to time. Thus, keeping up with the readings (about one chapter per week, sometimes more) **AND** class attendance will be important for success.

Grading:

Grades will be based primarily upon four tests, given at about four-week intervals, with the last test being considered the “final exam.” Material to be covered will be clearly stated, and the type of test will also be made known in advance, though most likely multiple choice, short answer, objective questions will make up the bulk of test items. Some essay questions may be given, depending upon the nature of the class. If such questions are used, that will be announced in advance of the test. Each exam is worth 200 points.

A fifth grade, 200 points, will be awarded based upon completion of a paper. The paper will be 1750 - 2500 words using double-spaced pages addressing a major topic or issue in developmental psychology, *as it applies to you, or someone you know*. The paper will be due Nov 20th. Because the Department of Psychology at MSU emphasizes the importance of written work, these papers will be read critically. Please allow yourself enough time to review and perhaps re-draft the paper before turning it in. In addition to content, the “clarity” of your communication with the instructor will be a major factor in assigning a grade. That is, you must write well to do well. To minimize unpleasant surprises, a proposal, identifying the topic or issue to be addressed, and the student’s approach, **MUST** be signed off in advance by the instructor prior to the first test. (The interested student will, of course, complete their proposals early.) A “*Proposal Guide*” to aid students in preparing for their papers may be found on page 5 of this syllabus. Title page, abstract and bibliography do not count in the page total. (12-point Times New Roman font – 1” margins). Papers less than 1750 words (body of the text) will be graded as a zero. Please do not shoot for a minimum and expect a great grade. As in life, exceed the minimum and strive for excellence.

Assignment	Points	Total points
4 Exams	200	800
Paper	200	200
Totals		1000

Test 1 Chapters 1 – 4

Test 2 Chapters 5 – 8

Test 3 Chapters 9 – 11

Test 4 Chapters 12 - epilogue

The following scale will be used to grade tests, your paper, and your class participation (1000 points total):

90 – 100%	=	A
80 – 89%	=	B
70 – 79%	=	C
60 – 69%	=	D
0 – 59%	=	F

NO GRADES WILL BE DROPPED IN CALCULATING COURSE GRADES.

Make-up tests: Students who miss one or more tests due to absences will be allowed to schedule make-up exams with permission of the Instructor. There will be no grade penalty for exams missed due to an excused absence. A 25 -point penalty will be assessed for exams missed due to unexcused absences. **Excused absences come from the Dean of Students.** Written work will not be accepted late – no exceptions (really means no exception). Please turn written work in early. I will not accept emailed work.

COVID Class Attendance Requirements and Additional Classroom policies:

Class attendance is expected! Schedule problems can usually be worked out, but must be discussed IN ADVANCE. Bona fide emergencies do sometimes occur, but must be discussed with the instructor as soon as possible after the emergency absence.

COVID teaching modality – this class is structured to be an in-person course in Dillard room 101.

All recommended social distancing and face covering rules promulgated by MSU-Texas will be followed and maintained. As long as the University requires face masks/covers, students **MUST** wear an approved mask to be in the physical classroom to minimize the potential spread of the Coronavirus. You will be asked to leave if you do not follow the University's policy. At present, face masks are **NOT** required but are recommended.

IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN Six (6) UNEXCUSED ABSENCES, YOU WILL BE DROPPED FROM THIS CLASS WITH A GRADE OF "F".

An absence may be excused **ONLY** if the student complies with, or provides one of the following:

- a. Negotiates approval for the absence with the instructor **IN ADVANCE**, or in the case of a legitimate emergency, as soon as is reasonable.

- b. Presents a written excuse from a physician or the MSU Infirmary via the Dean of Students
- c. Presents written evidence of participation in a mandatory University function (Band, Choir, Sports, etc.)
- d. Presents written evidence of attendance at a recognized professional meeting or professional educational program.
- e. Presents a written excuse from a physician for a dependent child's illness via the Dean of Students.

Student Code of Conduct:

MWSU's official policy in the University's Code of Student Conduct on page 52, states:

Instructor Drop An instructor may drop a student any time during the semester for excessive absences, for consistently failing to meet class assignments, for an indifferent attitude, or for disruptive conduct. The instructor must give the student a verbal or written warning prior to dropping the student from the class. An instructor's drop of a student takes precedence over the student-initiated course drop of a later date. The instructor will assign a grade of either WF or F through the first 9 weeks of a long semester, the first 6 weeks of a 10-week summer term, or the 12th class day of a 4- or 5-week summer term consisting of 20 days. After these periods the grade will be an F. The date the instructor drop form is received in the Office of the Registrar as the official drop date. A student dropped from a class by a faculty member for disruptive behavior has the right of appeal to the Student Conduct Committee through the Student Conduct office.

I will closely follow this policy in terms of your conduct in class. Anything that is disruptive to the class will result in you being Instructor Dropped from the class with a grade of F. I will enforce this policy in that my obligation is to provide the best and most informative course that I can. I cannot do that when there is behavior that disrupts the class. This also includes attempting to dominate or "teach" the class, interrupting the course frequently with stories that are not facilitative or relevant to the flow of the class, using electronics during class that are not directly related to the class material, and talking frequently to one's peers while course is being held. Any other behaviors that are deemed disruptive will also be enforced as deemed by our Code of Conduct policy. Remember that there are stories and questions that are facilitative to our class discussions, and some that are obstructive.

Other Comments:

Taping, laptop microphones, Googleglasses, cell phones – NOT ALLOWED! All students deserve the same respect and confidentiality in the classroom.

I will NOT accept emailed work.

Given the nature, scope, and intensity of this course, it is essential that each student keep up. It is the responsibility of each student to seek assistance when needed.

Academic Dishonesty: Please do not cheat or plagiarize. The MSU policy on cheating and plagiarism is in the MSU Student Handbook and Activities Calendar (Code of Student Conduct, Item 11) and I encourage you to review it. Additional information regarding the Academic Dishonesty policy is available from the Dean of Students office, in Clark Student Center. Cheating or engaging in

plagiarism will result in a grade of zero (0) and/or a letter grade of "F" for the course!!!!!! If you find yourself even *thinking about* cheating on an exam or copying someone else's work, please *talk to me* instead of doing it!!!

Late work – I will not accept late work. I will not accept work sent via email. I will not accept work turned in to the office or under my office door. I will only accept work submitted via D2L. ALL WORK MUST BE SAVED IN Microsoft convention (*.doc or *.docx). I cannot and will not open gdocs or pages. Work turned in any format other than the two I state will be graded as a zero. I will not accept work saved as a pdf. There will be no exceptions for late work and this includes absences for any MSU events – get things done in advance. Dates are posted and D2L is available.

PSYC 3233 *Developmental Psychology*

I. Topic Area: (Examples)

1. A "story" about yourself, or a special child/adult/older person you know.
The "story" should address a topic in Developmental Psychology such as,
 - a. A major theory of human development (Freudian, Erikson, other)
 - b. Specific developmental disorders in children or adults (i.e., ADHD, Alzheimer's)
 - c. Specific topic of interest (effect of divorce on children, death & dying, mid-life crises in women, etc.)
 - d. Some "phase of life" experience (early childhood, first day of school, adolescence, choosing a mate, career issues, mid-life crisis, old age issues, death & dying, etc.)

II. Reasons for Choosing this Topic and Person:

- "I am interested in this topic because my sister..."
"This topic was chosen because I experienced..."

III. Working Title: (Examples)

1. A Story About _____
2. My Grandmother, Donna Knox
3. When I Was a Child
4. The Storm & Stress of My Adolescence

IV. Purpose of the Paper: (Examples)

- "The purpose of this story will be to (compare) (illustrate) (review) (share experiences)..."

Proposed by

Approved by

Student Printed Name

Instructor

Date

Two copies of this form are required. One for you to keep and one for the instructor to keep.