

**COUN 2023- Human Development**  
Midwestern State University  
Gordon T. & Ellen West College of Education

**Instructor/Contact Information:**

Leann Curry, Ph.D.

E-mail: [leann.curry@msutexas.edu](mailto:leann.curry@msutexas.edu)

Phone: 940-397-4965

Office: BH 302

Office Hours: Mon 8:00am-11am; Wed. 8:00-10:00am; Thurs 10:00-11:00am; or by appointment\*

*\*I am in my office most days and happy to meet with you outside of my office hours if I am available. It is always a good idea to call or email ahead of time.*

**Instructor Response Policy**

The best way to contact me is via email. I will check my email between the hours of 8:00AM and 5:00 PM Mon-Fri. I will attempt to contact you within 24 hours; however, this does not apply on weekends or holidays. Once you contact me via email, we can then set up a virtual or phone meeting, depending on your needs.

**Course Description**

A study of human development and how empirical data using accepted reputable research methodology extends and supports our understanding of how development impacts society and what it is to be “human” through the stages of development specifically in the areas of cognitive, social, moral, and emotional domains.

*Scientific data shows that being fully vaccinated is the most effective way to prevent and slow the spread of COVID-19 and has the greatest probability of avoiding serious illness if infected in all age groups. Although MSU Texas is not mandating vaccinations in compliance with Governor Abbott’s executive orders, we highly encourage eligible members of our community to get a vaccination. If you have questions or concerns about the vaccine, please contact your primary care physician or health care professional. Given the recent rise in cases, individuals are also strongly encouraged to wear facial coverings when indoors among groups of people, regardless of vaccination status. Although MSU Texas is not currently requiring facial coverings, they have been an effective strategy in slowing the spread.*

**Textbook & Instructional Materials**

Berk, L. E. (2021). *Infants, Children, and Adolescents* 9<sup>th</sup> ed.). Pearson Education Inc: Boston

**Core Content, Objectives, and Core Skill**

Objectives	Learning Activities
Students understand and think critically about the major theories of children’s physical, cognitive, social, moral, and emotional development. Students will explain how developmental behavior impacts the individual and use empirical data to discuss the impacts that behavior has on the larger society.	discussion questions, lecture and/or guided reading, videos, portfolio, simulations, activities
Students understand and think critically about genetic, prenatal, hereditary, and environmental influences and how these influences and differences prevalent in various global regions impact human development and learning. Students will develop an understanding of the social and personal responsibility of being aware of the impact of diverse influences on human development across the globe.	discussion questions, lecture and/or guided reading, videos, portfolio, simulations, activities
Students recognize, understand, and think critically about the reciprocal influence of family and culture on human development.	discussion questions, lecture and/or guided reading, videos, portfolio, simulations, activities
Students understand and think critically about the contribution of heredity and environment (both geographic and culturally) to development and learning.	discussion questions, lecture and/or, guided reading, videos, portfolio, simulations, activities
Students develop an in-depth understanding of human growth and development and the changes that occur from infancy to young adulthood to better understand what makes us human.	discussion questions, lecture and/or guided reading, videos, portfolio, simulations, activities
Students will practice reflective habits regarding human development and develop an understanding of one’s own development and how that process impacts one’s approach to children and adolescents.	discussion questions, lecture and/or guided reading, videos, portfolio, simulations, activities
Students will develop an understanding of the development and maintenance of a healthy self-concept. Students will investigate developmental/environmental-related issues such as stress, risky behavior, gang violence, bullying, poverty, substance abuse, prenatal care, etc., and discuss the impacts on individuals, groups, and institutions.	discussion questions, lecture and/or guided reading, videos, portfolio, simulations, activities

These objectives align with [NAEYC standards](#), [National Association for the Education of Young Children](#)

[\(NAEYC\) Principles of Human Development](#) and [Principles of Child Development and Learning and Implications that Inform Practice](#) available on their web site at: [NAEYC](#)

## See Appendix A for a complete standards list

### Grading

Assignments	Points
Portfolio Part I:	40
Portfolio Part II:	42
Portfolio Part III:	36
Portfolio Part IV:	38
Activities (4 at 10 points each)	40
Online Discussion Questions (4 at 5 points)	20
Quizzes (10 at 10 points)	100
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>316</b>

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points 316
A	285 or Greater
B	253 to 284
C	222 to 252
D	190 to 221
F	189 or less

### Core Assessment (Portfolio Part I-IV)

The Core Assessment will be conducted in a four-part portfolio project that directly aligns to the core course objectives and demonstrates a student’s understanding of human development and its impact on the individual, society and culture. This assessment also requires students to apply empirical methods to think critically about how human development, behavior, and learning impact and are impacted by cultural differences to further their understanding of what makes us human. The portfolio includes the following four components: (1.) A research- based brochure students create that will require them to think critically about factors impacting the pre-natal environment and how those are influenced by diverse environments in a global context. A component of this brochure also includes a call to action to highlight social responsibility for a resolution to the issue. (2.) A project and presentation that requires students to be engaged in the research process that will allow them to analyze and think critically about human development, specifically infancy and toddlerhood, in order to develop a presentation for the class. (3.) An observation to collect data that allows students to analyze adolescent behavior and link that to developmental characteristics and discuss how cultural differences impact development. Additionally, students will analyze interactions of adolescents among groups and discuss subsequent impacts. (4.) A final reflective piece that requires students to critically reflect on each component of the portfolio in order to synthesize and demonstrate an understanding of

the social and personal responsibility to the issues in human development from diverse cultures and communities in the US and across the globe. The separate portfolio components will be used as formative assessments during the course and will be assessed using elements of the AACU Critical Thinking, Global Learning, Written Communication, Quantitative Literacy, and Oral Communication rubrics. All written portfolio components must adhere to APA 7<sup>th</sup> edition guidelines. *Additional instructions, guidelines, protocol sheet, supplemental articles, videos, and requirements are available on D2L/Brightspace.*

The following explains each part of the portfolio.

### **Portfolio Part I: Protecting the Prenatal Environment Brochure**

To demonstrate your understanding of influences on the prenatal environment and our personal and social responsibility for awareness and action, you will create a brochure highlighting an issue and provide strategies or solutions. Download and complete the chart entitled, "Protecting the Prenatal Environment" that is located in the Week 3 folder. Using your answers from the sheet consider the following questions: "What did you find most difficult to give up (or avoid)? Why? What was most surprising? Why?" Next, choose one that you found difficult to give up (or avoid) and find a research article from a reputable source exploring this issue in another country. Additionally, you must locate empirical, numerical evidence on the impacts (local, national, or global) of this issue. Create a visually appealing brochure that highlights the challenges of protecting the prenatal environment in this particular area of the world and how that might compare and contrast with the pre-natal environment in a culture specific to the US. Be sure to include the supporting research data and numerical data of the impacts and provide research-based strategies/recommendations/solutions to address this challenge. *Detailed explanations and rubrics are located in D2L.*

### **Portfolio Part II: Infancy and Toddlerhood Research Project & Presentation**

To deepen your understanding of human behavior and development, the influence that development has on institutions, other age groups, culture or our society as a whole, you will conduct research and create a presentation describing physical, cognitive, emotional, and social development in infancy and toddlerhood. Include information from the text, videos, simulations, and any supplied readings provided in D2L. You will submit an APA formatted paper, citing all sources, that is no more than 1,000 words as well as a video presentation that you will upload to YouTube for your classmates to view. You will copy the link on a word doc and turn it in to the drobox. Be sure that you include the following information in your paper. Each of the bullets below can be used as a paragraph topic with the addition of an introduction and conclusion for a complete essay.

- **Physical Development:** Discuss gross and fine motor skills during this stage of development. How might cultural influences impact development of motor skills? How might delayed motor development impact socialization?
- **Cognitive Development:** Use Piaget's theory to describe the cognitive differences between infants and toddlers. What specific behaviors support your supposition? How might cultural influences impact cognitive development and behavior? How might cognitive development impact further learning? How does cognitive development impact pedagogical and curricular decisions in schools?
- **Emotional Development:** Describe fear reactions and discuss when and why they appear in growth. How might cultural influences impact emotional development? How might individuals at this age communicate emotions? How might low or high EI impact an

individual's interactions with others?

- Social Development: Discuss self-discovery in infancy and toddlerhood. How might cultural influences impact social development? How might individuals at this age interact and communicate with other individuals?
- In addition to your choice of one of the above developmental areas, also address the following: How has research furthering our understanding of child development impacted education, entertainment, retail, and or local, state or national government agencies? Consider Legislative and media impacts as well. Make sure to include statistical data to support the impacts you focus on. For example, you might use a consumer report citing the dollar amount retail allots to market to the parents of this age group to discuss impacts.
- For the second part of the assignment, choose one of the four areas above and create a 3-5 minute video presentation going into detail about that area of development during the infancy and toddler period. In the presentation, discuss the most well-known theories about the area you chose from the text. Create a presentation for the video, such as Google Slides or Power Point with important points and quotes in bulleted form. Include graphics or graphs to support your information. When you record, you may use moviemaker, Screencast-o-Matic, VOKI, or any similar program, but upload it to YouTube and provide the link when you turn in the assignment. The images or voices of all group members must be present on the video. *Detailed explanations and rubrics are located in D2L.*

### Portfolio Part III: Adolescent Observation and Analysis

To gain an understanding of the social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development of the adolescent period and their impacts on other groups, you will be observing adolescents in a public place to collect data. You will then analyze aspects of their behavior that are indicative of the unique characteristics of this stage of human development. You will complete an observation protocol sheet and then compose a synthesis paragraph further exploring a behavior you observed and how that is connected with changes associated with this stage and its influences on the adolescent age group itself, institutions such as schools, and the larger culture of our society. The following are **possible** areas for exploration:

- How might adolescent moodiness contribute to the psychological distancing between parents and children that accompanies puberty? (Consider bidirectional influences in parent-child relationships.) How might cultural differences in child rearing impact development? How might this adolescent characteristic impact the school?
- How does adolescents' propensity for risky behavior impact society? School policy? Legislative actions?
- List various personal and contextual factors that promote identity development. Then, explain how ethnic identity development is achieved for ethnic minority adolescents.
- How might cultural differences in gender expectations during adolescence impact emotional, physical, social, and cognitive development? How has gender exploration impacted society?
- How has information furthering our understanding of adolescents and associated developmental characteristics impacted education, retail, media, and legislation?

*Additional instructions, guidelines, protocol sheet, supplemental articles, videos, and requirements are available on D2L/Brightspace.*

## **Portfolio Part IV: Reflection**

The reflective piece requires you to critically reflect on Parts I-III of the portfolio. You will synthesize the information you have gathered to demonstrate an understanding of human development and how it impacts individuals, society, and culture. You should address connections among the research-based developmental theories, experiences, and environments across the globe in order to demonstrate an understanding of our social and personal responsibility to grasp the differences in global environments—both the positive aspects as well as challenges your own and other cultures face. The following are possible areas for reflection:

- How has the knowledge of a particular stage(s) of development and behavior impacted your understanding of what it is that makes us human?
- How has an understanding of behaviors associated with developmental stages allowed you to be more understanding, tolerant, or to take a particular action?
- How has the knowledge of the impacts of global influences on development impacted your behavior (think about the actions suggested in your brochure).
- How has research you conducted supported and furthered the knowledge you have about human behavior and development?
- Why might you feel that it is important to people to understand human development and the associated behaviors?
- How has research you conducted supported and furthered the knowledge you have about issues pertaining human behavior and development and why society needs to be aware of these issues?
- Considering the empirical data including quantitative information as well as qualitative data you use to support your opinions, how might this data be interpreted a different way or how might this data be influenced by other factors?

The reflection should be at least 500 words and must be submitted as a pdf and uploaded by the date due to D2L/Brightspace. *Additional instructions, guidelines, and requirements are available on D2L/Brightspace.*

## **Additional Class Learning Activities**

### **Discussion Questions**

We will have several online discussions throughout the class. The discussions will occur throughout the semester in which you will explore and think critically about content from the readings and textbook. This will allow you to further explore topics more in depth, making connections among theories, supplemental readings, and comments from your peers. Discussion questions are posted on D2L/Brightspace in advance, so you can post your response at any time. See D2L course (communication tab) for discussion due dates). You must also post five replies in the discussion board by Sunday of the week due for 5 points each.

## Activities

The class will feature four formal learning activities worth ten points each that will strengthen your understanding of the main stages of child development. Specifics of each activity will be discussed further in class; however, the completed works will need to be uploaded to D2L/Brightspace on the given due date.

## Quizzes

There are 10 chapter quizzes throughout the course. These are accessed through your online textbook. They open at the beginning of the week they are assigned and close on the following Sunday.

## Late Work

Assignments are expected to be turned in by the due date. Ten percent of the total points will be deducted per day late, and any assignment submitted more than one week late will not be accepted. **Arrangements must be made at least two days in advance for any exceptions to be given.**

## Written Work

All written work should be completed in a professional style. Using correct spelling and grammar are important writing skills you must know well because your students will learn from you. Therefore, all written assignments will have 10% -20% of the grade based on spelling and grammar. Expectations are for quality work.

## Desire-to-Learn (D2L)/Brightspace

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into D2L through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor. All assignments must be submitted to D2L/BRIGHTSPACE for this course and should be in a PDF unless otherwise specified in the assignment guidelines. A minimum of 5% of the total points will be deducted for assignments not submitted through BRIGHTSPACE.

## MSU-TEXAS Policies and Procedures:

### [Student Handbook:](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures

### Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism is the use of someone else's thoughts, words, ideas, or lines of argument in your own work without appropriate documentation (a parenthetical citation at the end and a listing in "Works Cited")-whether you use that material in a quote, paraphrase, or summary. It is a theft of intellectual property and will not be tolerated, whether intentional or not. Use of AI for purposes other than editing (spell and grammar check) is prohibited. All work submitted must be original work/thoughts created by students.



## Student Honor Creed

As an MSU Student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else do so."

As students at MSU, we recognize that any great society must be composed of empowered, responsible citizens. We also recognize universities play an important role in helping mold these responsible citizens. We believe students themselves play an important part in developing responsible citizenship by maintaining a community where integrity and honorable character are the norm, not the exception.

Thus, We, the Students of Midwestern State University, resolve to uphold the honor of the University by affirming our commitment to complete academic honesty. We resolve not only to be honest but also to hold our peers accountable for complete honesty in all university matters.

We consider it dishonest to ask for, give, or receive help in examinations or quizzes, to use any unauthorized material in examinations, or to present, as one's own, work or ideas which are not entirely one's own. We recognize that any instructor has the right to expect that all student work is honest, original work. We accept and acknowledge that responsibility for lying, cheating, stealing, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty fundamentally rests within each individual student.

We expect of ourselves academic integrity, personal professionalism, and ethical character. We appreciate steps taken by University officials to protect the honor of the University against any who would disgrace the MSU student body by violating the spirit of this creed. Written and adopted by the 2002-2003 MSU Student Senate.

## Academic Dishonesty:

Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the [Office of Student Conduct](#)

## Online Computer Requirements

Taking an online class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. ***Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.*** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. **Computer issues are not an excuse for missing a deadline.** There are many places to access your class! Our online classes may be accessed from any computer, which is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations however, they are able to help you be connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

## Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

## Refund and Repayment Policy



A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request). For specific information and information regarding financial aid policies, contact the MSU business office.

### **Services for Students with Disabilities**

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

### **Campus Carry Rules/Policies**

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

### **Smoking/Tobacco Policy**

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by MSU. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

### **Alcohol and Drug Policy**

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

### **Grade Appeal Process**

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

### **Instructor Class Policies**

Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment which is conducive to learning. Inappropriate behavior in the D2L online classroom shall result, minimally, in a request to drop the class and a Professional Fitness Form will be filed for review with the college. If the instructor must file a Fitness Alert Form for any reason, including failure to demonstrate

appropriate classroom behaviors, the student may receive an instructor drop with an "F" for the course.

An instructor may drop a student any time during the semester for failure to participate, 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 8 weeks of a long semester, the first 6 weeks of a 10 week summer term, or the 11th 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 is the official drop date.

#### Plagiarism

"By enrolling in this course, the student expressly grants MSU a 'limited right' in all intellectual property created by the student for the purpose of this course. The 'limited right' shall include but shall not be limited to the right to reproduce the student's work product in order to verify originality, authenticity, and educational purposes." from [Student Handbook](#). All assignments submitted in BRIGHTSPACE will also be checked through Turn It In for originality. Assignments with more than 50% match will be given a 0.

Please note: By enrolling in this course, the student expressly grants MSU a "limited right" in all intellectual property created by the student for the purpose of this course. The "limited right" shall include but shall not be limited to the right to reproduce the student's work product in order to verify originality and authenticity, and for educational purposes.

#### References:

Berk, L. E. (2021). *Infants, Children, and Adolescents* 9<sup>th</sup> ed.). Pearson Education Inc: Boston

NAEYC (2020). DAP: Principles of Human Development. Retrieved December 31, 2020, from [Principles of Human Development](#)

NAEYC (2020). DAP: Principles of Child Development and Learning and Implications that Inform Practice. Retrieved December 31, 2020, from [Principles of Child Development that Inform Practice](#)

NAEYC (2020). DAP: Principles of Human Development. Retrieved December 31, 2020, from [Social-Cultural Context of Child Development and Learning](#)

#### Notice:

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

