Life Span Developmental Psychology  
PSY 530-901, 3 credits, Online from August 24, 2015 to October 16, 2015

Instructor: Dr. Cassandra Bergstrom  
Office: McKee 17A  
Office Phone: 351-2587  
Office Hours: I am available by email (excluding weekends and holidays)  
E-mail: cassendra.bergstrom@unco.edu

Required Text


Available as either a paper text or an e-text. Please see the UNC bookstore for your options.

Blackboard Site: [http://unco.blackboard.com](http://unco.blackboard.com)

Course Objectives

This course examines changes in human behavior over the entire life span from conception to death. Topics are presented in a chronological order and cover physical, cognitive, and social developmental changes. Traditional theories are integrated with current findings of developmental research.

During this course, students should be able to answer:

- Gain factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends) in the field of developmental psychology.
- Learn fundamental developmental principles, generalizations, and theories.
- Apply course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions).
- Analyze, critically evaluate, and write about developmental ideas, arguments, and points of view.

Course Description

This course will cover several large sections of the life span, after some foundational information: Theories and Foundations, Early Childhood, Middle Childhood, Early Adolescence, Adolescence, Young Adulthood, Middle Adulthood, and Late Adulthood. For each topic, you will complete activities designed to help you see how these large topics relate to and can help improve understanding of human development. These activities include reading assignments, PowerPoint slides, and the assignments described below. The reading assignments and PowerPoint presentations can be found in the **Course Materials** on our class’s Blackboard site.

Course Format

This course is completely online. Depending on how fast you read and type, expect this course to take around 10-15 hours per week. You are responsible for keeping up with the readings and
activities listed on the course schedule. You will need average computer skills and a reliable internet connection to participate in this class. While I can answer some technical questions, your best bet is UNC’s Help Desk, which is available 24 hours a day. You can reach them at 970-351-HELP (970-351-4357) or 1-800-545-2331. Also see: [http://www.unco.edu/blackboard/supportu.html](http://www.unco.edu/blackboard/supportu.html)

**Points and Grading**

Your grade for this course will be determined by the number of points that you receive in each of the following sections. I will keep track of your points on Blackboard. Final grades will NOT be rounded.

- **A = 93.0% - 100.0%**
- **A- = 90.0% - 92.9%**
- **B+ = 87.0% - 89.9%**
- **B = 83.0% - 86.9%**
- **B- = 80.0% - 82.9%**
- **C+ = 77.0% - 79.9%**
- **C = 73.0% - 76.9%**
- **C- = 70.0% - 72.9%**
- **D+ = 67.0% - 69.9%**
- **D = 60.0% - 66.9%**
- **F = 59.9% and below**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Activities</th>
<th>8 X 10 pts</th>
<th>80 pts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit Quizzes</td>
<td>8 X 15 pts</td>
<td>120 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflections/Connections Blogs</td>
<td>3 X 20 pts</td>
<td>60 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integration Paper</td>
<td>1 X 40 pts</td>
<td>40 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>300 pts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please contact me at any time with questions concerning grading.*

**Learning Activities**

The Learning Activities are activities and discussion questions designed to help you think in a different way about the material we are covering, and there will be one set of learning activities due each week. Completing these activities will help you make sense of the readings and cue in to the “big ideas.” Generally, you should complete these activities first as they will prepare you for the other assignments. There are learning activities to complete each week and I give choice in completing them (e.g., “Complete 2 of the 4 listed activities”). It is a good idea to view responses to all the learning activities even though you don’t have to respond to all of them. Grading is fairly simple. I either give you full credit (10 points) or partial-credit (5 points). You get full credit if you complete the required number of activities and post thoughtful responses (i.e., more than just a sentence or two) to the queries in each activity. You get partial credit for completing only some of the activities or for providing minimal responses. If you don’t do the week’s activities, of course you don’t get any points. For more information and to complete the assignments go to the [Discussion Board](http://www.unco.edu/blackboard/supportu.html) tab on Blackboard.

**Unit Quizzes**

For each unit, there will be a corresponding quiz over the material contained in the unit. Most material on the quizzes will come from the textbook, with some coming from required videos and/or articles posted for the unit. Each quiz will have 15 items, and will be worth 15 points. Unit quizzes must be finished prior to the time they are due (see **Course Schedule** for due dates), unless arrangements have been made ahead of time with the instructor or extenuating
circumstances prevent the notification. Quizzes will be available under the Unit Quizzes tab on Blackboard.

**Reflections/Connections Blogs**

The Reflections/Connections Blogs give you the opportunity to write about intriguing connections between the topics and “big ideas” we will cover and your everyday life. The goal of the blog is to connect your own views and experiences with course content. You will complete three blogs. I hope you have fun with this! Consequently, I don't want you worrying about how I will grade your blog. You will get full credit (20 points) simply for completing a full blog (i.e., roughly the equivalent of 2 double-spaced pages or 600 words) by the due date on the course schedule. You will get partial credit for a blog shorter than described above. For more information and to complete the assignments, go to the Blogs tab on Blackboard.

**Integration Paper**

The integration paper is a 5 page paper (minimum) worth 40 points detailing an observation/interview of a child or adult, while integrating material from class and outside sources to support your observations. The purpose of the integration paper is to integrate your observation/interview with course material, as well as to include outside source material. The due date for the integration paper is on the course schedule, and more information will be provided in the Integration Paper tab on Blackboard.

**Honor Code**

All members of the University of Northern Colorado community are entrusted with the responsibility to uphold and promote five fundamental values: Honesty, Trust, Respect, Fairness, and Responsibility. These core elements foster an atmosphere, inside and outside of the classroom, which serves as a foundation and guides the UNC community's academic, professional, and personal growth. Endorsement of these core elements by students, faculty, staff, administration, and trustees strengthens the integrity and value of our academic climate. [www.unco.edu/dos/communityStandards/honor_code](http://www.unco.edu/dos/communityStandards/honor_code)

**Academic Conduct**

Students are expected to follow the rules of academic conduct as set forth in the University Student Handbook. Plagiarism on any work submitted for this course is unacceptable and will be addressed with the possibility of receiving a zero on the assignment or even an F in the course. Plagiarism includes acts such as submitting the work of another as your own, collaborating on an assignment without prior instructor approval, and incorrect citation of paraphrased content in both intentional and unintentional cases. All homework assignments and papers will be scanned with Safe Assign to detect plagiarism.

**UNC’s Policies**

UNC’s policies and recommendations for academic misconduct will be followed. For additional information, please see the Dean of Student's website, Student Handbook link and current catalog. [http://www.unco.edu/](http://www.unco.edu/)

**Accommodations Statement**
Any student requesting disability accommodation for this class must inform the instructor giving appropriate notice. Students are encouraged to contact Disability Support Services (www.unco.edu/dss) at (970) 351-2289 to certify documentation of disability and to ensure appropriate accommodations are implemented in a timely manner. I would also encourage you to meet with me to discuss your needs as soon as possible.

**Diversity Statement**

The College of Education and Behavioral Sciences (CEBS) is committed to maintaining a community that recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among its members; and encourages each individual to strive to reach her or his own potential. In pursuit of its goal of academic excellence, CEBS seeks to develop and nurture diversity, believing that it strengthens the organization, stimulates creativity, promotes the exchange of ideas, and enriches campus life. CEBS prohibits discrimination against any member of the College’s community on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability status, health status, political affiliation or veteran status.

Please visit the CEBS Diversity and Equity Committee website for more information on our commitment to diversity (http://www.unco.edu/cebs/diversity).