PSY 530, Lifespan Developmental Psychology  
August 24 – October 16, 2015

Instructor  
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Office Hours: McKee 14w, M 11:00-12:00 and W 9:30-11:30 & 12:00-1:00

Using Blackboard  
This section of PSY 530 is an online class. We will not meet in a classroom at any time.  
All work will be completed through Blackboard, UNC’s online learning environment.  
Blackboard can be accessed at http://bb.unco.edu. To receive help with Blackboard, go to  
http://www.unco.edu/blackboard/student.html or call the help desk at 351-4357 or 1-800-545-2331. Your Blackboard username is the first 8 characters of your BearMail address.  
If you are a new user, your password is the same as the password for your BearMail.

Course Objectives  
This course covers human development from birth through late adulthood. We will  
survey scientific research in developmental psychology, focusing on physical, cognitive,  
emotional, and social development in infancy, early and middle childhood, adolescence,  
early and middle adulthood, and late adulthood. This class is designed to meet the  
following learning objectives:

- Demonstrate knowledge of research on and theories of development across the  
lifespan (this objective will be met through quizzes on the textbook chapters)
- Demonstrate critical thinking about research in developmental psychology and  
how research in this field can be applied to real world issues such as educating  
children, promoting healthy development, and parenting (this objective will be  
met through the discussion board assignments and the term paper)

Disability Support Services  
Students who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to  
contact the Disability Support Services, voice/TTY (970) 351-2289, or fax (970) 351-4166, or visit www.unco.edu/dss as soon as possible to ensure that accommodations are  
implemented in a timely fashion.

Inclusivity Statement  
The College of Education and Behavioral Sciences (CEBS) supports an inclusive  
learning environment where diversity and individual differences are understood,  
respected, appreciated, and recognized as a source of strength. We expect that students,  
faculty, administrators and staff within CEBS will respect differences and demonstrate  
diligence in understanding how other peoples’ perspectives, behaviors, and worldviews  
may be different from their own.

Academic Integrity Policy  
The University of Northern Colorado’s Student Code of Conduct http://www.unco.edu/dos/Conduct/codeofconduct.html and Honor Code
http://www.unco.edu/dos/Conduct/academicIntegrity.html strictly prohibit any form of academic misconduct. Academic misconduct includes but is not limited to plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, and knowingly or recklessly encouraging or making possible any act of plagiarism, cheating, or fabrication. Academic misconduct is an unacceptable activity in scholarship and is in conflict with academic and professional ethics and morals. All incidents of alleged plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty will be investigated and violations of academic integrity will result in a consequence that may be as severe as an F in the class and a recommendation for expulsion. For more information on plagiarism and appropriate paraphrasing, please see: http://www.unco.edu/dos/Conduct/codeofconduct.html (Student Code of Conduct Index / III. Student Conduct / D. Academic Integrity)

Communication between Students and Instructor
Students are encouraged to stay in contact with the instructor to ensure that all questions are answered and all assignments are clearly understood. The following procedures are recommended for communicating with the instructor:

- Send e-mail to the instructor to ask questions about course requirements, writing assignments, grades, etc. Also send e-mail to report technical problems with quizzes. When sending e-mail, always include “PSY 530” in the subject line of the message. On weekdays, the instructor will respond to e-mails within 24 hours.
- The instructor will post important information, such as deadlines and reminders of tasks that need to be done, on the Blackboard announcements page. Check the announcements regularly.
- The instructor will occasionally send e-mail to students. E-mail will be sent to your BearMail account. Make sure to check your UNC/BearMail account regularly.
- The instructor can be reached by phone. However, email is preferred.
- If you would like to speak with the instructor, please come to scheduled office hours (listed above). No appointment is necessary.

Textbook
The textbook for this class is Development through the lifespan, 6th edition, by Laura E. Berk. The textbook comes in a paper version and an online “e-book” version. You may use either version, or both versions.


Paper textbook. New and used copies of the textbook are also available at the UNC bookstore. You can buy a book without access to the e-book. This option is OK. Tests in PSY 530 will not cover any material that is not in the paper textbook.
**Grading**

This course is letter graded. Your grade will be based on the number of points you earn on 17 quizzes, weekly discussion-board participation, and one term paper. There are 640 points available. Grade cutoffs are:

A = 588 (92%), A- = 576 (90%), B+ = 563 (88%), B = 524 (82%), B- = 512 (80%), C+ = 499 (78%), C = 460 (72%), C- = 448 (70%), D+ = 435 (68%), D = 396 (62%), D- = 384 (60%), F < 384

The 640 available points will be distributed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test/Assignment</th>
<th>Points available</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syllabus quiz</td>
<td>10 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Chapter quizzes</td>
<td>480 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term paper</td>
<td>75 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion board participation</td>
<td>75 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You can view your up-to-date grades anytime by clicking on “My Grades” in the Course Menu on Blackboard.

**Syllabus Quiz**

The first quiz covers the syllabus. You can find the Syllabus Quiz by clicking on “Quizzes” in the Course Menu on Blackboard.

A score of 10 points (100% correct) is required on the Syllabus Quiz. Scores of less than 10 points will be converted to zero in the grade-book. The Syllabus Quiz has no time limit, and you may take it as often as necessary, up to the quiz deadline, to achieve a score of 10 points. The Syllabus Quiz will not be available after its deadline. Deadlines can be found in the detailed schedule at the end of the syllabus.

**Chapter Quizzes**

The chapter quizzes can be found by clicking on “Quizzes” in the Course Menu on Blackboard (these quizzes are available only on UNC’s Blackboard site; the quizzes and exams in the e-book are for practice only and do not count toward your grade). There are 16 chapter quizzes, worth 30 points each.

Each chapter quiz covers one chapter. There will be quizzes covering chapters 3-18. Each quiz is numbered according to the chapter it covers. For example, the quiz covering Chapter 3 is called Quiz 3, even though it is the first chapter quiz that you will take. There are no Quizzes 1 and 2; you will not be tested on those chapters.

There is a folder for each chapter quiz in the Quizzes area. Each folder contains the quiz and a brief study guide that outlines the most important concepts in that chapter.

Each chapter quiz consists of 15 multiple-choice questions (worth 2 points each), has a time limit of 20 minutes, and can be taken only once. Once you start a quiz, you must
finish it within 20 minutes in one sitting. You cannot start a quiz, stop, and then go back later to re-take or finish it. Do not open a quiz until you have thoroughly studied the material and are ready to complete the quiz in one sitting. If you spend more than 20 minutes on a quiz, 2 points will be deducted from your score if you take between 20:01 and 21:00 to complete the quiz, two additional points will be deducted if you take between 21:01 and 22:00, and so on.

A deadline for each quiz is given in the detailed schedule on Page 6. Chapter quizzes 3-16 can be taken after their deadlines, but 5 points will be deducted from your score on any quiz completed after its deadline. Quizzes 17 and 18 cannot be taken after their deadline (their deadline is the last day of the term).

**Quizzes are “open book”**
You may use your book and notes during quizzes. However, don’t expect to have time to look up answers during a quiz. Before starting a quiz, you should study the material as thoroughly as you would for a closed-book test in a classroom.

**Discussion Board**
The purpose of the discussion board is to encourage active and critical thinking about the empirical research, theories, and overall themes in developmental psychology. Each week, the instructor will post at least two discussion questions for each chapter that we are covering. These questions will be designed to elicit discussion around main themes in developmental psychology, such as nature vs. nurture, universality vs. diversity, and qualitative vs. quantitative development. They will also ask students to apply what they are learning from the textbook to real-world situations.

Each student is required to make at least four discussion-board posts per week (with one exception: only two posts are required in Week 1). In Weeks 2-8, two of your posts must be either responses to the instructor’s discussion questions or new threads, and two must be responses to students’ posts. You will receive 10 points for each week in which you make the four required posts (only 5 points will be given for discussion board posts in Week 1). You may make more than 4 posts; 4 is just the minimum. You will receive zero points for weeks in which the minimum number of posts is not made (e.g., making 3 posts in a week in which 4 posts are required would not meet the requirement and would earn zero points). No credit will be given for posts made after each week’s deadline.

In all communications related to this class, including discussion board posts, students are expected to be professional in the tone and content of their communications, tolerant of diverse ideas, and respectful toward the instructor and other students. We can disagree about ideas. But arguments should always be directed against ideas, not against the individuals who present the ideas. Finally, posts containing vulgar or disrespectful language will be deleted immediately (and students whose posts contain such language may be blocked from making future posts).
**Term Paper**
The term paper project is designed to promote active learning and critical thinking about research and theories developmental psychology, and it gives students an opportunity to learn about a topic of interest in more depth than is covered in the textbook. Detailed instructions for the term paper are available in the Assignments area on Blackboard, and the term paper due date is listed in the detailed schedule below.

**Blackboard Test-Taking Tips**
Use a computer with a fast internet connection. Close down all other programs you may have running on your computer. Having multiple programs open may cause problems with your test, including loss of data.

Use one of the following Web browsers when taking Tests in Blackboard:
- PCs -- Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, or Google Chrome
- Macs -- Safari or Mozilla Firefox

Do not open the exam until you are prepared to take it. Blackboard will not allow you to exit an exam and reenter it again later. Once you have started a quiz DO NOT click on any of the menu buttons or the navigation buttons on your web browser (including the Back button). DO NOT print pages, send email, surf the web, or instant message while taking a test. Doing so may bump you out of the exam, in which case your test will be frozen. Do not click anywhere outside the test and do not click the back button or the refresh button on your browser tool bar.

If you lose your connection while taking a quiz, or if a quiz freezes, contact the instructor by email immediately and explain the circumstances. If the instructor determines that you should be allowed to retake a test, you will have to retake the entire quiz (Blackboard will not let you start from where you left off) and questions answered incorrectly on your first attempt will be counted as incorrect when your final score is computed, even if you answer them correctly on your re-take. So, your score may be adjusted later, after you receive your initial score.

Your quiz answers are not submitted until you click the “Save and Submit” button at the end of the exam. **You must hit the save and submit button when you have completed the test!**

**Detailed Schedule, Fall, 2015**
A key to success in an online class is to keep up and not get behind. The deadlines listed below are designed to help you succeed in this class by encouraging you to keep up with your work throughout the term. In this schedule, weeks start on Mondays and end on Fridays. All work is due at 5:00 PM on Fridays.
Weeks 1 & 2, August 24 – September 4:
- Read the syllabus carefully and complete the syllabus quiz with a score of 10 points (100% correct) by 5:00 PM on Friday, September 4.
- Buy the textbook (either a paper copy or the e-book).
- Read Chapters 3-6.
- Complete Quizzes 3, 4, 5 and 6 before 5:00 PM on Friday, September 4 (there are no Quizzes 1 and 2; you will not be tested on those chapters).
- Make at least two discussion board posts during Week 1 (by 5:00 PM on 8/28) and at least four during Week 2 (by 5:00 PM on 9/4).

Week 3, September 7-11:
- Read Chapters 7 & 8.
- Complete Quizzes 7 & 8 before 5:00 PM on September 11
- Make at least four discussion board posts during Week 3 (by 5:00 PM on 9/11).

Week 4, September 14-18:
- Read Chapters 9 & 10.
- Complete Quizzes 9 & 10 by 5:00 PM on September 18.
- Make at least four discussion board posts during Week 4 (by 5:00 PM on 9/18).

Week 5, September 21-25:
- Read Chapters 11 & 12.
- Complete Quizzes 11 & 12 by 5:00 PM on September 25.
- Make at least four discussion board posts during Week 5 (by 5:00 PM on 9/25).

Week 6, September 28 – October 2:
- Read Chapters 13 & 14.
- Complete Quizzes 13 & 14 by 5:00 PM on October 2.
- Make at least four discussion board posts during Week 6 (by 5:00 PM on 10/2).

Week 7, October 5-9:
- Read Chapters 15 & 16.
- Complete Quizzes 15 & 16 by 5:00 PM on October 9.
- Make at least four discussion board posts during Week 7 (by 5:00 PM on 10/9).
- Submit term paper by 5:00 PM on Friday, October 9.

Week 8, October 12-16:
- Read Chapters 17 & 18.
- Complete Quizzes 17 & 18 by 5:00 PM on October 16.
- Make at least four discussion board posts during Week 8 (by 5:00 PM on 10/16).