

Prepared by the Department of Social Sciences, Behavioral Sciences, and Human Services

Date of Departmental Approval: September 8, 2014

Date Approved by Curriculum and Programs: October 1, 2014

Effective: Spring 2015

1. Course Number: PSY201

Course Title: Child Psychology

- 2. Course Description:** This course focuses on important aspects of physical, cognitive, social and emotional development, occurring from the prenatal period through middle childhood. The major theories of development, research methods and the important roles of genetics and neuroscience are discussed. Emphasis is placed on the role of early experiences and biological factors in the later formation of personality, intellectual and emotional behaviors.

3. Student Learning Outcomes:

Knowledge Base of Psychology

Students who successfully complete the course will demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in child psychology. The students will be able to compare and contrast different approaches to the understanding of child psychology.

Research Methods in Psychology

Students who successfully complete the course will be able to evaluate research methods used in child psychology by articulating strengths and limitations of various research designs. Students will be able to dissect important topics in child psychology and understand that each topic can be analyzed using a variety of approaches.

Critical Thinking Skills in Psychology

Students who successfully complete the course will respect and use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and, when possible, the scientific approach to solve problems related to child psychology. The student will show the ability to use critical thinking effectively by making linkages and connections between diverse facts, theories, and observations.

Application of Psychology

Students who successfully complete the course will understand and apply concepts, theories, and research findings in child psychology as they apply to everyday life. Students will comprehend, apply and relate the effects of biological, psychological and socio-cultural factors in understanding the child development.

Values in Psychology

Students who successfully complete the course will be able to weigh evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and reflect other values that are the underpinnings of child psychology as a discipline. The student will recognize and respect human diversity and understand that principles of child psychology may vary across populations and contexts. The student will recognize the necessity for ethical behavior in all aspects of the science and practice of child psychology.

Technology

Students use information and technology ethically and responsibly. They quote, paraphrase, and cite correctly from a variety of media sources. Define and avoid plagiarism. Avoid distorting statistical results. Honor commercial and intellectual copyrights. They demonstrate the following computer skills:

Use basic word processing, database, email, spreadsheet, and data analysis programs.

Search the World Wide Web for high quality information.

Use proper etiquette and security safeguards when communicating through email.

4. Credits: Three credits

5. Satisfies General Education Requirement: Behavioral and Social Sciences

6. Prerequisite: PSY101 (General Psychology)

7. Semester(s) Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer

8. Suggested General Guidelines for Evaluation: The methods of assessment used to gauge these outcomes are written assignments, tests and class discussion. The final grade will consist of written papers, class participation, and examinations.

9. General Topical Outline (Optional):

History, Theories, and Methods.

Heredity and Conception.

Prenatal Development.

Birth and the Newborn Baby.

Infancy: Physical, Cognitive, Social and Emotional Development.

Early Childhood: Physical, Cognitive, Social and Emotional Development.

Middle Childhood: Physical, Cognitive, Social and Emotional Development.