Cape Cod Community College

Departmental Syllabus

Prepared by the Department of Social Sciences and Human Services
Date of Departmental Approval: February 24, 2010
Date approved by Curriculum and Programs: March 3, 2010

Effective: Fall 2010

1. **Course Number:** **PSY233**
    Course Title: **Developmental Psychology: The Life Span**

2. **Description:** This course provides a survey of the physical, cognitive, sexual, social, and moral issues relevant to human development across the life span.

3. **Student Learning Outcomes:**
    A. Knowledge Base of Developmental Psychology
    Students will understand the major concepts, theoretical perspectives and empirical findings of developmental psychology. Specifically students will remember and understand theories of development across the life span; history, theory and research strategies; biological and environmental foundations; prenatal development, birth, and the newborn baby; physical, cognitive and emotional development in infancy and toddler hood, early childhood, middle childhood, adolescence, early adulthood, middle adulthood and late adulthood; and death, dying and bereavement.

    B. Research Methods in Developmental Psychology
    Students will evaluate the validity of conclusions derived from psychological research on development across the lifespan. Students will use academic and scholarly research and be able to distinguish the nature of designs that permit causal inferences from those that suggest correlation. Students will recognize that individual differences and sociocultural contexts may influence the applicability of research findings. Students will locate and use relevant data- bases in the creation of research papers and presentations.

    C. Critical Thinking Skills
    Students will apply critical thinking skill in their analysis and understanding of all course materials. Students will compare and contrast the theoretical perspectives of several noted developmental theorists and psychologists. Students will use reasoning to develop, defend and criticize arguments and approach problems effectively.

    D. Applications of Psychology
    Students will articulate developmental principles when writing and discussing various stages tasks of development across the lifespan. Students will identify appropriate applications of developmental psychology in solving problems and creating policy for particular ages. Students will recognize that ethically complex analysis is necessary in the application of psychological principles.

    E. Values in Developmental Psychology
    Students will evaluate sociocultural contexts and values assumed by developmental perspectives. Students will create an open environment as they understand the principles of developmental psychology to diverse populations. Students will analyze the applicability of psychological concepts and principles to varying populations. Students will recognize the necessity for ethical behavior in all aspects of the practice of psychology

4. **Credits:** Three credits

5. **Satisfies a General Education Requirement:** Behavioral and Social Sciences

6. **Prerequisites:** PSY101 and ENL101

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

8. **Suggested General Guidelines for Evaluation:** Assessment methods used to measure these outcomes are written assignments, tests, class discussion and small group activity and presentations. Evaluation is based on examinations, written papers, class participation and class presentations.

9. **General Topical Outline (Optional):**
    - Theory and Research in Human Development

- Foundations of Development
- Infancy and Toddlerhood
- Early Childhood
- Middle Childhood
- Adolescence
- Young Adulthood
- Middle Adulthood
- Late Adulthood
- Death, Dying and Bereavement