

MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE

Psychology 230: Introduction to Developmental Psychology

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Fall Semester, 2006-2007
Office Hour: Thursday, 11:00
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Primary Readings (may be purchased at the Odyssey):

Berk, Laura E. (2005). **Infants and children: Prenatal through middle childhood, 5th edition**. Boston: Pearson (Allyn & Bacon/Longman).

Axline, V. (1964). **Dibs: In search of self**. NY: Ballantine.

A small number of other readings, available online (username: fall06; password: psycho)

(This course meets Tuesday from 8:35-9:50 a.m. and Thursday, 8:35- 10:50)

September 7

Introduction to the course

Film: "Scientific American frontier: It's a kid's world"

September 12

Theories in developmental psychology

Chapter 1: History, theory, and research strategies

September 14

Theories and methods in developmental psychology (continued)

Film: "Life's greatest miracle"

September 19

Heredity and development

Chapter 2: Biological and environmental foundations

September 21

Prenatal environmental influences

Chapter 3: Prenatal development

Film: "Newborn: Nature of things"

September 26

The neonate

Chapter 4: Birth and the newborn baby (for more on Apgar, go to <http://profiles.nlm.nih.gov/CP/>)

September 28

Complications of pregnancy; problems of prematurity

Lantos, J. (2001, July 20). Life and death in neonatal intensive care. Chronicle of Higher Education, B12-B13. (Required readings beyond the textbook are available online. Username: fall06; password: psycho)

Wasserstein, Wendy (2000, February 21 & 28). Complications. The New Yorker, 87-109.

Film: Brody & Axelrad. "Feeding and function pleasure in the first year of life"

October 3

Infant capacities and physical development

Chapter 5: Physical development in infancy and toddlerhood

October 5

First Examination (in class)

October Break**October 12**

Infancy: Cognitive development and Piaget's view of the sensorimotor period

Chapter 6: Cognitive development in infancy and childhood

Film: "Life's first feelings"

October 17

Infancy: Critique of Piaget; early language development

Chapter 6 (continued)

October 19

Attachment theory: Bowlby and Ainsworth

Chapter 7: Emotional and social development in infancy and toddlerhood

Film: "Mary Ainsworth: Attachment and the growth of love"

October 24

Attachment in childhood and later

Chapter 7 (continued)

Karen, R. (1990, February). Becoming attached. Atlantic Monthly, 35-70.

October 26

What happens when a secure attachment is interrupted?

Film: "John: Aged seventeen months, for nine days in a residential nursery"

October 31

How universal are our theories of development? Preschools

Chapter 8: Physical development in early childhood

Film: "Preschools in three cultures"

November 2

Early childhood: Piaget's preoperational period and critiques; Vygotsky

Chapter 9: Cognitive development in early childhood

Film: "Play: A Vygotskian approach"

November 7

Language and communication in early childhood

Chapter 9 (continued)

November 9

Second Examination (in class)

November 14

When development goes wrong: A classical clinical case study

Axline, V. (1964). Dibs: In search of self (complete)

November 16

Gender and identity in early childhood

Chapter 10: Emotional and social development in early childhood

Film: "Sex unknown"

November 21

The scientific study of parenting

Chapter 11: Physical development in middle childhood

Thanksgiving Break

November 28

The concrete operational period: Piaget's views and critiques

Chapter 12: Cognitive development in middle childhood

November 30

Being smarter about intelligence

Chapter 12 (continued)

Film: "Genie"

December 5

New ideas about motivation and learning

Chapter 13: Emotional and social development in middle childhood

Seal, K. (1993, July). The trouble with talent. Lear's, 30-31.

December 7

A new/old idea: Birth order and personality

Chapter 13 (continued)

Film: "Birth order: A sibling story"

December 12

Third Examination (in class)