Grand Valley State University
PSY 301 Child Development
Course Syllabus

This syllabus is subject to change. Changes (if any) will be announced via Blackboard.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Name
Kelsey Augustyn, MS, Psy.S.
she/her/hers

Office Hours
Mon - 3:30 - 4:30
Wed - 3:00 - 4:00
By appointment only at
https://auguskel.youcanbook.me/

After booking, click here to access my **Zoom Office Hours link:**

https://gvsu-edu.zoom.us/j/*******167?pwd=eSEHm1okrcoueNYRcsPzt9VpnFPV92.1

Email
auguskel@gvsu.edu

Email is the quickest and easiest way to get in touch with me. Please put **"PSY 301"** in the subject line of your email. Reach out to me if you are not able to meet virtually during office hours, but would like assistance. We will figure out a way to get you the support that you need.

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Prerequisite: Introductory Psychology course such as PSY 101 or an equivalent, or HNR 234

Course Description: This course provides an overview of the theories, methods and phenomena of child psychology. We will explore the development of the child from conception to early adolescence in the home, school, and society. We begin with an introduction to the study of human development, followed by discussion of prenatal development and the neonate and then proceed to cover the domains of physical, emotional, social and cognitive development that take place over the course of infancy, childhood, and early adolescence. The approach to the course topics is scientific, with an emphasis on research findings in developmental psychology. An appreciation for cultural diversity is an integral part of this course and will be addressed in the lectures and video segments. Classes will consist of readings, video lectures, multimedia presentations, assignments, exams, and a culminating field observation project and paper.

Course Objectives:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the basic concepts and theoretical paradigms that direct the field of Developmental Psychology.
- Describe, and think critically about, changes within the developing person from conception to adolescence.
- Discuss both traditional and current explanations for trends in the human's physical, cognitive, and social/emotional growth.
- Understand the scientific method and apply it to the understanding of child behavior and development.
- Apply knowledge regarding child development to both observations of children and interactions with children.

Online Course Format - Asynchronous: Watch the video lectures and complete the course work each week, online at a time that is most convenient for you, *however you must submit assignments by their due dates in the outlined date ranges provided in the course schedule below. Information regarding specific exam windows will be posted with advance notice in Blackboard.*

Life Happens:
I recall what it is like to be a college student, and know that personal situations are unavoidable at this phase in your life. I want to ensure you understand that due dates are firm, but I recognize that *life happens.* Students must communicate with me in advance if personal circumstances arise so that we can form a plan for you to succeed, together. Keep in mind that you have one full week to complete the coursework assigned each week, and that should provide the flexibility needed should personal or professional issues arise. However, please reach out to me if you are encountering any circumstances beyond your control, and you and I can work together. Your success and wellbeing matters to me.

Course Webpage: https://lms.gvsu.edu/ultra
This class will take place via the Blackboard (Bb) system. Blackboard will contain all course materials and information. Students are responsible for all information provided via Blackboard, including online lecture videos, lecture study guides, announcements, reading assignments, homework assignments, projects, and exams.

Take a look at the GVSU Online Learning pages to find numerous materials about using Blackboard and online learning http://www.gvsu.edu/online/. If you experience technical problems with Blackboard, contact the help desk by email or phone - helpdesk@gvsu.edu or 616-331-3513. The help website is http://www.gvsu.edu/it/learn/

Required Course Text: This course is participating in the **GVSU Save program**. Your required course materials will be available prior to the first day of class through your BlackBoard account. You will be charged for the course materials via your GVSU student account and a "GVSU SAVE Charge" will appear on your student bill.

However, if you decide you don't want to participate, you will need to Opt-Out of the program and be sure you obtain the material on your own.

In this course we *will use Santrock, J. W. (2021). Children, 15th Edition. McGraw Hill Publishers,* a digital version of the book on the McGraw-Hill Education Connect® online platform. Connect uses technology that adapts content to your skill level to make more-efficient use of your study time and create a more-effective reading experience. See info under Connect Reading Assignments for more info on how to access the required e- book and how to complete weekly Connect Reading Assignments.

Required Course Equipment (owned or accessible):

- Reliable high-speed internet access
- Computer with a sound card and speakers and operating system that meets current Blackboard
  browser requirements (Windows 7 or above, OS 10.10 or above)
- Computer microphone built in or external (most laptops have a microphone)
- Computer camera - built in or external (most laptops have a camera)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. EXAMS:
Three Exams (50 questions each, 50 points each) will be given covering material presented in the lectures and the text. Exam dates are listed in the Course Schedule, below. All of the exams are *noncumulative*.

Exams 1 and 2 will be administered during the provided windows below in the course schedule. Exam 3 will be taken during finals week, and more details regarding the specific date/time window will be shared via Blackboard. You will have 75 minutes for each exam from the time you start the exam.

Exams will be taken online, accessed via **BlackBoard**, and will require **Respondus Lockdown and Monitor**. The software allows for fair, secure tests by preventing students from accessing other programs and ensuring that student knowledge is being validly measured. It's best to think of this software as a way to simulate the experience of students taking a proctored exam in a regular classroom, but from the location of the student's choice.

Using LockDown Browser and a Webcam for Online Exams: The purpose of exams is to gauge whether students have successfully learned course content and skills. To support that success, exams must be administered fairly. I find that students want exactly that—they want to know that when they have studied hard for an exam, they are being fairly recognized for that work and knowledge. The suspicion that others might be "gaming the system" can be dispiriting. This is especially relevant for online courses, where there is no in-class proctor or instructor present to ensure fair testing circumstances for all concerned. To help alleviate these problems, this course requires the use of LockDown Browser and a webcam for online exams. The software simulates

conditions of taking an in-person exam—it prevents students from looking at notes and course materials, and from communicating questions and answers with each other.

Although further information about this software will be provided after the course has begun, it is important to be aware up front that this is how exams will be administered, and that there are certain hardware requirements to take exams this way. The required webcam can be built into your computer or can be the type that plugs in with a USB cable.

Watch this brief video to get a basic understanding of LockDown Browser and the webcam feature. https://www.respondus.com/products/lockdown-browser/student-movie.shtml

Download and Install LockDown Browser and Webcam Feature from this link:

https://download.respondus.com/lockdown/download.php?id=936312756

When taking an online exam, follow these guidelines:

- Ensure you're in a location where you won't be interrupted
- Turn off all other devices (e.g. tablets, phones, second computers) and place them outside of your reach
- Clear your desk or workspace of all external materials not permitted - books, papers, other devices
- Remain at your computer for the duration of the test
- If the computer, Wi-Fi, or location is different than what was used previously with the "Webcam Check" and "System & Network Check" in LockDown Browser, run the checks again prior to the exam
- To produce a good webcam video, do the following:
    - Avoid wearing baseball caps or hats with brims
    - Ensure your computer or device is on a firm surface (a desk or table). Do NOT have the computer on your lap, a bed, or other surface where the device (or you) are likely to move
    - If using a built-in webcam, avoid readjusting the tilt of the screen after the webcam setup is complete
- Take the exam in a well-lit room, but avoid backlighting (such as sitting with your back to a window)
- Remember that LockDown Browser will prevent you from accessing other websites or applications; you will be unable to exit the test until all questions are completed and submitted.

Getting Help

Several resources are available if you encounter problems with LockDown Browser:

- The Windows and Mac versions of LockDown Browser have a "Help Center" button located on the toolbar. Use the "System & Network Check" to troubleshoot issues. If an exam requires you to use a webcam, also run the "Webcam Check" from this area
- Respondus has a Knowledge Base available from support.respondus.com. Select the "Knowledge Base" link and then select "Respondus LockDown Browser" as the product. If your problem is with a webcam, select "Respondus Monitor" as your product
- If you're still unable to resolve a technical issue with LockDown Browser, go to support.respondus.com and select "Submit a Ticket". Provide detailed information about your problem and what steps you took to resolve it

2. CONNECT ONLINE READING ASSIGNMENTS:
You will have the opportunity to complete Connect Reading Assignments throughout the semester, each is worth 1 or 2 points for a total of **30 points**. Because this course is participating in the GVSU Saves program, the required text and Connect Reading Assignments is available through Bb and your GVSU student account will be charged (you can opt-out, and buy the book on your own if you choose).
You access the weekly Connect Weekly via Blackboard.

***Assignments will open each Friday at 5:00pm ET and will close the following Friday at 5:00pm ET.* There are no make-up opportunities for Connect Reading Assignments. Late Assignments are not accepted and will receive a zero**.

To Register with Connect:
To Access weekly Connect Reading Assignments, you must first register with Connect. Log into Blackboard, find our course, in the 'Start Here' section of Bb you will find instructions on how to register for Connect. During the registration process, you will be prompted to create a new account or login with an existing Connect account.
Use your GVSU username and GVSU email password when registering!
Once you have registered for Connect, you need to ***access all Connect assignments via Blackboard.***
Please note: After you register, you will have the option to purchase a low-cost print-version of the text through Connect. This is optional. If you choose to purchase a copy, a full-color, loose-leaf version will be shipped to you.

Connect Technical Support: If you are having trouble registering for or accessing Connect, please contact McGraw-Hill Education's Customer Support. Live chat, email, and phone support are available 7 days a week.

Website: www.mhhe.com/support | Phone: (800) 331-5094 **Hours (EST)**

Ensure your computer meets system requirements by going to this link:
http://connect.mheducation.com/connect/troubleshoot.do

3. ASSIGNMENTS:

You will have the opportunity to complete 5 assignments throughout the semester, each worth 10 points for a total of **50 points**. These assignments will require you to apply principles that have been covered in online lectures. You can find information regarding assignment due dates in the course calendar later in the syllabus. You can also find the course calendar on Blackboard, in the 'Start Here' folder.

***Assignments will be due Fridays by 5:00pm ET, submitted via Blackboard*. There are no make-up opportunities for Assignments.**

4. OBSERVATION PROJECT:

The study of developmental psychology is greatly enhanced by the opportunity to observe actual children and conduct informal research. Therefore, you will have the opportunity to complete observations and assessments with a child (5 to 15 years old) and write an observation paper. More information regarding this project will be provided in the coming weeks of this course. The entire Observation Project is worth **80** points. Portions of the project will be assigned in increments, before all project materials and paper are due by the assigned due date. **Late papers will not be accepted and will receive a 0.**

5. EXTRA CREDIT (optional):

I will occasionally, on a very limited basis, assign "extra credit," discussion board topics. If you decide to respond to the topic and do so with demonstration of critical thinking, depth and engagement with other students, you will receive 1 extra credit point per discussion board topic. For example, an extra credit point would be awarded to you if you respond with one original post of appropriate substance (2-3 sentences, answering all posed questions), and reply to at least two classmates.

<u>GRADING</u>

Exams are worth 50 points (3X50=150), Connect Reading Assignments are worth 30 points (1 or 2 points each), and Assignments are worth 10 points each (5X10 =50), and the Observation Paper is worth 80 points. Thus, the total number of points for the class is 310. ***Grades will not be curved***. Based on your cumulative point score, the following grades will be assigned:

Your Total Points	Letter Grade	Your Total Points	Letter Grade
291-310	A	235-247	C+
279-290	A-	226-234	C
266-278	B+	217-225	C-
257-265	B	204-216	D+

248-256	B-	186-203	D
		<186	F

**If your grade is at the .5 mark, I will round up (e.g., 242.5 will be rounded up to 243). I will not adjust your grade in any other way. Please do not ask at the end of the semester.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN THIS COURSE

Self-Management is Key: Online courses require perseverance, self-discipline, self- motivation, and the ability to work independently – more so than face-to-face on-campus classes. Be sure to

- Log into Blackboard at least 4-5 times per week
- Stay organized and track due dates
- Plan weekly study times and stick to a schedule
- Make a habit of checking your email, and Blackboard announcements for the most up-to-date information regarding this course

Plan on spending roughly 10 hours per week on this course. Approximately, 2-3 hours watching video lectures, 1-2 hours completing assignments, 1-2 hours completing reading assignments, and 2 - 3 hours prepping for exams and/or working on the observation project.

Read! Read and complete the Weekly Connect Reading Assignment associated with each lecture *before* viewing the online lecture. This will provide you with a broader context for understanding the material presented in the online Lectures. Missing one or more Connect Reading Assignments will substantially lower your grade in the course.

Watch the Online Lectures each week! You Must watch and fill-out your lecture outlines each week. Missing one lecture will substantially lower your ability to understand the content necessary for the exams and assignments, in turn, lowering your grade substantially.

Take Good Notes: Review the posted weekly study guides prior to reading and watching the lectures. Print out the lecture slides, take electronic notes, and make note of examples given in lecture. The Lecture Slides are intended as a guide only. Please Email me with any questions you have about the lecture material!

Turn in all Assignments on time. Late Assignments receive a 0. Missing one assignment will substantially lower your grade in the course.

Prepare for Exams well in advance. You should re-read your lecture notes each day. You should work with the Weekly Study Guide each week. Make flashcards, re-write notes, talk it over with a friend/classmate, etc. If you wait until the last minute to begin preparing for an exam, you are unlikely to perform as well.

Communicate with me! *Email me* or make an appointment to meet with me on Zoom if you need to discuss anything pertaining to this course. ***I am here to help you, and love the opportunity to connect with my students.***

<u>**COURSE POLICIES**</u>
This course is subject to the GVSU policies listed at http://www.gvsu.edu/coursepolicies/

Accommodation of Students with Disabilities: If you have a learning, physical or other disability that would impact your ability to master and/or access the material in this course and/or take the exams as described above, please contact GVSU's Disability Support Services (DSS) at 616-331-2490 or http://www.gvsu.edu/dsr/ to arrange for special accommodations.

Academic Dishonesty: If I have evidence of any form of academic dishonesty (cheating on an exam, giving or receiving information about what is asked in the exam, or any other form of cheating such as plagiarism), you will receive a failing grade in that activity and other consequences as dictated by GVSU policy. Plagiarism is presenting work, ideas or words that are not your own as though they were your own—this includes work of other students or work that is in a published source (the textbook, a journal article). To avoid plagiarism be sure to do your own work, and put information in your own words. Use of quotes with appropriate reference to the original source from which you got the information or ideas is acceptable but less preferred than paraphrasing (with referencing of the source provided) in psychological writing.

AI Policy Statement by [David A. Joyner @davidjoyner@fediscience.org](#) :

We treat AI-based assistance, such as ChatGPT and Copilot, the same way we treat collaboration with other people: you are welcome to talk about your ideas and work with other people, both inside and outside the class, as well as with AI-based assistants.

However, all work you submit must be your own. You should never include in your assignment anything that was not written directly by you without proper citation (including quotation marks and in-line citation for direct quotes).

Including anything you did not write in your assignment without proper citation will be treated as an academic misconduct case. If you are unsure where the line is between collaborating with AI and copying from AI, we recommend the following:

1. Never hit "Copy" within your conversation with an AI assistant. You can copy your own work into your conversation, but do not copy anything from the conversation back into your assignment. Instead, use your interaction with the AI assistant as a learning experience, then let your assignment reflect your improved understanding.
2. Do not have your assignment and the AI agent open at the same time. Similar to above, use your conversation with the AI as a learning experience, then close the interaction down, open your assignment, and let your assignment reflect your revised knowledge. This includes avoiding using AI directly integrated into your composition environment: just as

you should not let a classmate write content directly into your submission, so also avoid using tools that directly add content to your submission.

COURSE SCHEDULE

The following is a tentative schedule, subject to change

Week	Lecture Topic	Assignment (s)
	8:00am Monday Aug 26 - 5:00pm Friday Aug 30	
1	Course Overview, Intro to Developmental Science and Historical Perspectives	Connect Reading, Assignment # 1
	5:00pm Friday Aug 30 - 5:00pm Friday Sep 6	
2	Research Methods, Discuss Observation Project	Connect Reading, Assignment # 2, review all Observation Project documents & videos posted
	5:00pm Friday Sep 6 - 5:00pm Friday Sep 13	
3	Prenatal Development & Birth	Connect Reading, **Practice Exam**
	5:00pm Friday Sep 13 - 5:00pm Friday Sep 20	
4	The Role of Genes & Environment	Connect Reading, Assignment # 3
	5:00pm Friday Sep 20 - 5:00pm Friday Sep 27	
5	Infant Brain and Motor Development	Connect Reading, Observation Project checkpoint # 1
	5:00pm Friday Sep 27 - 5:00pm Friday Oct 4	
6	Infant Perceptual Development	Connect Reading, **EXAM #1 (weeks 1-5)**
	5:00pm Friday Oct 4 - 5:00pm Friday Oct 11	
7	Infant Socioemotional Development & Attachment Theory	Connect Reading
	5:00pm Friday Oct 11 - 5:00pm Friday Oct 18	
8	Early Childhood Socioemotional Development	Connect Reading , Assignment # 4, Observation Project checkpoint #2
	5:00pm Friday Oct 18 - 5:00pm Friday Oct 25	
9	Moral Reasoning Development in Childhood, Discuss Observation Paper	Connect Reading , review all Observation Paper documents and videos posted
	5:00pm Friday Oct 25 - 5:00pm Friday Nov 1	
10	Self Concept & Theory of Mind	Connect Reading, **EXAM #2 (weeks 6-9)**
	5:00pm Friday Nov 1 - 5:00pm Friday Nov 8	
11	Infant & Early Childhood Cognitive Development - Piaget	Connect Reading, Assignment # 5

12	*5:00pm Friday Nov 8- 5:00pm Friday Nov 15*	
	Cognitive Development in Middle Childhood & Adolescence Piaget	Connect Reading
13	*5:00pm Friday Nov 15- 5:00pm **Wednesday** Nov 27*	
	Sociocultural Theory of Cognitive Development - Vygotsky	Connect Reading, Observation Papers due Wed. @ 5:00pm
14	*5:00pm Friday Nov 29 - 5:00pm Friday Dec 6*	
	Introduction to Developmental Disabilities, Careers in Child Development	Connect Reading
15	*Dec. 9 - Finals week*	
		EXAM #3 (weeks 10-14)

ADDITIONAL STUDENT RESOURCES & OPPORTUNITIES

Psych Friends Peer-to-Peer Mentors: Psych Friends mentors are upper-level psychology and behavioral neuroscience students who are trained to provide support in many areas, such as: effective studying and time management techniques, exam preparation and reflection skills, understanding the PSY and BNS major requirements, potential jobs and careers in the field, the process of applying for graduate school, and how to maintain physical and mental health as a student. Visit https://www.gvsu.edu/navigate to schedule an online or in-person meeting today!

Meijer Writing Center: To assist you with any writing project, at any stage of your writing process. The center's well-trained peer consultants can help you to brainstorm ideas, organize content, integrate research, polish a draft, and correctly document sources. Make an appointment or visit during drop-in hours. Visit http://www.gvsu.edu/wc/ or Call 331-2922.

SASC Tutoring Center: Need help understanding your course content or writing a paper? Want to learn more efficient study strategies? SASC Tutoring Center can assist with most courses and academic writing assignments. Visit http://www.gvsu.edu/tc/ for the most current information on services, hours, and locations.

Employment Options for Psych Majors: Learn more about careers in psychology at https://www.gvsu.edu/psychology/employment-options-for-psychology-majors-228.htm

Guardian Mobile Safety App: Creates a two-way connection between you and the campus police anywhere on campus. Find out more at www.gvsu.edu/gvpd/guardain.

GVSU Counseling Center: Short-term individual and long-term group therapy are provided at no cost to currently registered GVSU students. Seminars and events, online self-help tools, and consultation/referral are just a few of the additional services we provide to the GVSU community. https://www.gvsu.edu/counsel

Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship (OURS): The Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship provides support for undergraduates to pursue the research and creative practice in their discipline. Essentially, we support curious students, by connecting them with ways to discover, research, and explore. Students work with faculty on student initiated, or faculty initiated research. https://www.gvsu.edu/ours/

Study Abroad: Contact the Padnos International Center https://www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad/ There are programs in every region of the world!

CLAS Advising Center: offers accessible, accurate, timely, and consistent academic advising to all students pursuing majors and/or minors offered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. https://www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/

Career Center: Interested in exploring careers and majors? Interested in finding an Internship or job? Need help with your resume and cover letter? Contact GVSU's Career Center https://www.gvsu.edu/careers/

If you made it to the end of this syllabus, I'm proud of you, and you are going to do great! :)