Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards.

Kierkegaard

Instructor
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Purpose
This course centers on developmental psychology and will provide an overview of the major theories, concepts, and issues of life span development. Life is an every changing and dynamic process which can be studied and understood as an interaction between story, setting, themes and the unique issues of each developmental epoch.

Objectives
A successful student in this course will gain a rich appreciation of the nature and needs of people at various developmental levels. This student should...

- Develop a working knowledge of the theories of individual and family development and transitions across the life-span.
- Become familiar with theories of learning and personality development;
- Understand developmental crises including an awareness of one’s own strategy for navigating such crises.
- Gain an awareness of disabilities, exceptional behavior, addictive behavior, psychopathology, and situational and environmental factors that affect both normal and abnormal behavior.
- Discover strategies for facilitating optimum development and optimum mental health over the life-span.
- Explore clinical, personal, ethical and legal considerations of life span development.

Format
This class will utilize small group activities. Much of your individual grade will be determined by small group work. It is imperative that you participate in your small group as well as class discussions. The instructor reserves the right to change the class plan, schedule and strategies if the class goals are not being met.
Requirements

Mid-term 25%
Final 25%
Weekly reaction papers/quizzes 20%
Interview 10%
Attendance & participation & biography 10%
To be Told project 10%

Academic policies

- Computers are a welcome educational tool and your use of a lap top computer during our class time is encouraged. However, please do not distract yourself or others by using wireless internet to check e-mail or surf the net during our class time. Do not play games on personal computers during class time.
- Late papers lose a half letter grade.
- This class has been designed to meet the CACREP guidelines for developmental psychology.
- Please retain a personal copy of all of your work.

Grading Scale

A (100-95)  A- (94-93)  B+ (92-91)  B (90-85)
B- (84-83)  C+(82-81)  C (80-77)  C- (76-75)
D (74-70)  F (Below 70)

Texts


To Be Told by Dan Allender

Recommended...
The Scared Journey, Tell Secrets by Buechner