

George Mason University
College of Education and Human Development
Early Childhood Education

EDUC 302.001 Human Growth and Development
3 Credits, Spring 2019
Tuesdays and Thursdays/ 10:30 – 11:45 am
Aquia 219, Fairfax Campus

Faculty

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Prerequisites/Corequisites

None

University Catalog Course Description

Introduction to educational issues; not applicable in graduate-level teacher education programs. Examines human development through life span with special emphasis on cognitive, language, physical, social, and emotional development of children. Emphasizes contemporary theories of human development and their relevance to educational practice. Notes: Requires school-based field experience during the course. Offered by Graduate School of Education. May not be repeated for credit.

Course Overview

Not Applicable

Course Delivery Method

This course will be delivered using a lecture/discussion format and Blackboard.

Learner Outcomes or Objectives

This course is designed to enable students to do the following:

1. Discuss the developmental stages of human development in terms of the cognitive, affective, and psychomotor domains and understand the key theories.
2. Examine and explain the contributions of heredity, environment, and child-rearing practices to the total development of the child.
3. Understand the development and/or the application of theories as they apply to the instruction of children and adults.
4. Explain how people learn through active exploration and multiple interactions with materials, other people, and the adults or leaders in their environment.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of contemporary theories of human development and their relevance to educational practices in early childhood, middle, and adolescent education.

Professional Standards (Council of Exceptional Children and National Association for the Education of Young Children)

Upon completion of this course, students will have met the following professional standards:

Not Applicable

Required Texts

Berk, L. (2018). *Exploring lifespan development* (4th ed.). Boston, MA: Pearson.
ISBN: 978-0134419701

Recommended Texts

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author. ISBN: 9781433805615

Supplemental materials will be posted on the Blackboard website.

Course Performance Evaluation

Students are expected to submit all assignments on time in the manner outlined by the instructor (e.g., Blackboard, Tk20, hard copy).

Assignments	Due Dates	Points
Attendance & Participation	Ongoing	25
Quizzes (5 quizzes - 8 points each)		Total Points 25
Quiz 1 (Chapters 1 through 3)	2/12	5
Quiz 2 (Chapters 4 through 6)	3/7	5
Quiz 3 (Chapters 7 through 10)	3/28	5
Quiz 4 (Chapters 11 through 14)	4/11	5
Quiz 5 (Chapters 15 through 18)	4/25	5
Small Group Article Share presenter article/discussion due		10
• Prenatal, Infancy, or Toddlerhood	2/14	
• Early Childhood or Middle Childhood	3/19	
• Adolescence or Early Adulthood	4/2	
• Middle Adulthood or Late Adulthood	4/16	
Brief Research Report (BRR)		Total Points 15
• Topic & Articles for approval	2/28	5
• Final Report -Final revision of the draft	4/16	10
Field Experience Portfolio		Total Points 25
• Part 1: Pre-Observation Plan	3/7	2
• Part 2: Post-Observation Record	4/30	3
• Part 3: Report	4/30	15
• Part 4: Presentation	4/30&5/2	5
TOTAL		100

- **Grading**

A+ = 98 – 100 A = 93 – 97 A- = 90 – 92 B+ = 87 – 89 B = 83 – 86 B- = 80 – 82
C+ = 77 – 79 C = 73 – 76 C- = 70 – 72 D = 60 – 69 F = < 60

Incomplete (IN): This grade may be given to students who are passing a course but who may be unable to complete scheduled coursework for a cause beyond reasonable control.

All CEHD undergraduate students are held to the university grading policies as described in the Academic Policies section of the current catalog, which can be accessed at <http://catalog.gmu.edu>. Those students seeking Virginia initial teaching licensure must earn a B- or better in all licensure coursework.

Quizzes (25 points)

Students will complete five in-class quizzes (5 points each) across the semester to demonstrate knowledge of central aspects of human development and developmental theories. Quizzes may include a combination of multiple-choice responses, short essays, and other test items.

Article Share (10 points)

Students will select a journal article (not a news article) from a variety of topics provided by the instructor that is related to human growth and development. This activity will take place during predetermined class sessions (see class schedule). Article Share groups will be determined on the first day of class. There will be approximately four students to a group. Each group member will be responsible for leading one article share discussion and groupmates will be responsible for engaging in a dialog with the presenter.

Presenter's Responsibilities (7 points)

- A week before the presentation, presenters will upload to Blackboard the **article** they will share with their group (1 point) and a **two-page discussion handout** (brief article summary, talking points) they will use to facilitate a small group, in-class, discussion of their article's relevance and findings (3 points).
- Presenters must bring at least 5 copies of the discussion handout to share with their peers in their small groups.
- Following their presentation, presenters will submit a paragraph reflecting on their presentation experience (i.e., How well did the discussion go overall? What insights or thoughts did participants share during the discussion of the article?) (3 points).

Participant's Responsibilities (3 points)

- As a participant, students will be responsible for **reading the article ahead of class** and thoughtfully listening to and engaging in discussion during article shares. To demonstrate engagement each student will write a brief journal reflection following each presentation sharing thoughts about the research findings and relevance to class readings/personal experience.

Brief Research Report (BRR, 15 points)

This assignment allows students to pursue a topic of their choice and conduct some basic research on the topic. The topic can be anything they are interested in that relates to the content of the course.

Using the research skills demonstrated by the education librarian Anne Melville (adrisco2@gmu.edu) or by the instructor, students are to find at least **three** scholarly, (peer-reviewed) journal articles (including at least 1 empirical-research article) that cover their topic of interest that have been published in the **past decade**. Students are to submit their topic and electronic copies (PDF of full article - no links!) of the articles for instructor approval prior to writing the paper. The final report should include a literature review, synthesis, and reflection guided by the following questions:

- How is the topic situated in the field of lifespan development? Specifically,
 - What developmental period is emphasized?
 - What theoretical perspectives inform the research? (Vygotsky, Piaget, Freud, Erikson, etc.)
 - What developmental domains (social and emotional, cognitive, and /or physical) are emphasized?
- How is this information helpful for practitioners?
- How is this information relevant for the general population?

Students will cite current research from the course textbook, class discussions, and other course materials, which may be supplemented with other relevant sources to support their conclusions and assertions. Students will use in-text citations and include a reference list. The paper will be five to six double-spaced pages plus title and reference pages. Must use APA style.

Field Experience Portfolio (25 points)

Students will compile a Field Experience Portfolio based on a 10-hour field observation in a school or alternative educational setting. Students should work through CEHD's field experience coordinator (fieldexp@gmu.edu) to find a site and/or register their site in the database. To initiate this assignment, students will visit <https://cehd.gmu.edu/endorse/ferf> and complete the online "Field Experience Request Form." On the form, they will be asked to indicate how their placement will be arranged. **They should arrange their field experience with the field experience coordinator as soon as possible.** If this is a concern, please see the instructor immediately.

Part 1: Pre-Observation Plan (2 point)

Prior to the observation, students will submit a pre-observation plan that includes (a) information about the placement (e.g., school, age/grade level, teacher, etc.), types of artifacts that will be collected (e.g. pictures of children's work, quizzes etc), and (b) a one-page, double-spaced reflection on what they expect to learn from engaging in this field experience.

Part 2: Post-Observation Record (3 points)

Students will submit a post-observation record that includes the following:

- a. A completed field experience documentation form signed by the teacher/supervisor,
- b. A log briefly describing the learning experiences observed during the observation period (e.g., 10/06/16 - 8:10 – 8:20 Morning Meeting, 8:20 – 9:20 Writing Workshop, 9:30 – 10:00 P.E. Volleyball).

Part 3: Report (15 points)

The final Field Experience Report should be one document that includes the following:

- a. A description of what was observed (lessons, activities, methods, materials, assessments, etc.) and how these things supported students' physical, cognitive, and social-emotional development;
- b. A discussion of relevant theories/concepts of development regarding how the students' physical, cognitive, and social-emotional needs were supported by the learning environment; and
- c. An appendix of artifacts (e.g., field notes, pictures of learning environment, anonymous student work samples, etc.) that support observations captured during the field experience.

In the final report, students will cite current research from the course textbook, class discussions and other course materials, which may be supplemented by other relevant sources to support their conclusions and assertions. Students will use in-text citations and include a reference list. The full report should be four to five double-spaced pages plus separate title, reference, and appendix pages.

Part 4: Presentation (5 points)

Students will spend a significant portion of the semester observing and reflecting on their field experience. Because everyone's experience will be different, students can learn from each other. Students will present their experiences in their field placement to the class. Students may use PowerPoint or other materials to convey their presentation. Presentations will be approximately 5 minutes. **ALL students MUST attend presentations on presentation days (see class schedule for presentation days).**

- **Other Requirements**

Attendance and Participation (25 points)

Because active participation and engagement are imperative for optimal learning, preparation for and participation in in-class activities will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Students attend class, arrive on time, and stay for the entire class period.
- Students use laptops and personal devices for instructional purposes only.
- Students complete readings and prepare for class activities prior to class as evidenced by their ability to discuss and write about the concepts presented and examined in the texts as well as participate fully in related activities.
- Students are actively involved in in-class and online learning experiences as evidenced by (a) participating in all activities, (b) engaging in small- and large-group discussions, (c) completing written work related to the activities, and (d) supporting the participation and learning of classmates.
- Students show evidence of critical reflective thinking through in-class and online discussions, activities, and written reflections.
- Students display professional dispositions at all times while interacting with the instructor and other students.
- Students complete participation activities across the semester that complement the scheduled course topic. Instructors will periodically collect artifacts from the activities. Students in

attendance and who actively engage in the learning experience will receive credit for their efforts. Graded participation activities are not announced and are implemented at the discretion of the instructor.

Written Assignments

All formal written assignments will be evaluated for content and presentation. The American Psychological Association, Sixth Edition (APA) style will be followed for all written work. All written work unless otherwise noted must be completed on a word processor and should be proofread carefully. (Use spell check!) If students are not confident of their own ability to catch errors, they should have another person proofread their work. When in doubt, they should check the APA manual. Portions of the APA manual appear at the Style Manuals link on the Mason library website at <http://infoguides.gmu.edu/content.php?pid=39979>. Students may consult the Writing Center for additional writing support.

Students will do the following:

1. Present ideas in a clear, concise, and organized manner. (Avoid wordiness and redundancy.)
2. Develop points coherently, definitively, and thoroughly.
3. Refer to appropriate authorities, studies, and examples to document where appropriate. (Avoid meaningless generalizations, unwarranted assumptions, and unsupported opinions.)
4. Use correct capitalization, punctuation, spelling, and grammar.
5. Type the paper with double spacing, indented paragraphs, 1-inch margins all around, and 12-point Times New Roman font.

Professional Dispositions

Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times. See <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/policies-procedures/>.

Class Schedule

Date	Topic and Associated Readings	Assignments Due
Week 1		
Tuesday 1/22	Introductions, Overview of course, Sign-up for article shares and groups, and Field Experience Ch. 1 History, Theory, & Research Strategies	
Thursday 1/24	Ch. 1 History, Theory, & Research Strategies	
Week 2		
Tuesday 1/29	Ch. 2 Genetic & Environmental Foundations	
Thursday 1/31	In-Class Workshop: Research Session with Anne Melville [ALL you need to know about finding good research articles]. Ch. 2 Genetic & Environmental Foundations	
Week 3		

Tuesday 2/5	Ch. 3 Prenatal, Birth, & the Newborn Baby	
Thursday 2/7	Ch. 3 Prenatal, Birth, & the Newborn Baby	
Week 4		
Tuesday 2/12	Ch. 4 Physical Development in Infancy & Toddlerhood	Quiz 1 (Ch 1-3)
Thursday 2/14	Ch. 5 Cognitive Development in Infancy & Toddlerhood	<i>ONLY Presenter # 1's Article & Handout submission on BB</i>
Week 5		
Tuesday 2/19	Ch. 5 Cognitive Development in Infancy & Toddlerhood	
Thursday 2/21	Ch. 6 Social/Emotional Development in Infancy & Toddlerhood	<i>Prenatal, Infant, or Toddlerhood Article Share I: In-class Presentation & BB Reflections</i>
Week 6		
Tuesday 2/26	NO CLASS – NASP conference Review APA style PowerPoint, plagiarism PowerPoint. *Email me if you have questions about the Brief Research Report article choices, due next class	
Thursday 2/28	NO CLASS – NASP conference	<i>Submit BRR topic & 3-Articles on BB for approval by 11:59pm</i>
Week 7		
Tuesday 3/5	Ch. 6 Social/Emotional Development in Infancy & Toddlerhood	
Thursday 3/7	Ch. 7 Physical & Cognitive Development in Early Childhood	Quiz 2 (Ch 4-6) <i>Part I Pre-observation Plan due on Blackboard (BB) by 11:59pm</i>
Week 8		
Tuesday 3/12	NO CLASS SPRING BREAK	
Thursday 3/14	NO CLASS SPRING BREAK	
Week 9		

Tuesday 3/19	Ch. 8 Social/Emotional Development in Early Childhood	<i>ONLY Presenter # 2's Article & Handout submission on BB</i>
Thursday 3/21	Ch. 9 Physical & Cognitive Development in Middle Childhood	
Week 10		
Tuesday 3/26	Ch. 10 Social/Emotional Development in Middle Childhood	<i>Early or Middle Childhood Article Share II: In-class Presentations & BB Reflections</i>
Thursday 3/28	Ch. 11 Physical & Cognitive Development in Adolescence	Quiz 3 (Ch 7-10)
Week 11		
Tuesday 4/2	Ch. 12 Social/Emotional Development in Adolescence	<i>ONLY Presenter # 3's Article & Handout submission on BB</i>
Thursday 4/4	Ch. 13 Physical & Cognitive Development in Early Adulthood	
Week 12		
Tuesday 4/9	Ch. 14 Social/Emotional Development in Early Adulthood Check-in: Students to check in with the instructor to share concerns about Field Experience Portfolios	<i>Adolescence or Early Adulthood Article Share III: In-class Presentations & BB Reflections</i>
Thursday 4/11	Ch. 15 Physical & Cognitive Development in Middle Adulthood	Quiz 4 (Ch 11-14)
Week 13		
Tuesday 4/16	Ch. 16 Social/Emotional Development in Middle Adulthood	<i>ONLY Presenter # 4's Article & Handout submission on BB</i> <i>Final BRR due on BB by 11:59pm.</i>
Thursday 4/18	Ch. 17 Physical & Cognitive Development in Late Adulthood	
Week 14		
Tuesday 4/23	Ch. 18 Social/Emotional Development in Late Adulthood	<i>Middle or Late Adulthood Article Share IV: In-class</i>

		<i>Presentations & BB Reflections</i>
Thursday 4/25	Ch. 19 Death, Dying, & Bereavement Final Course Evaluation	Quiz 5 (Ch 15-18)
<i>Week 15</i>		
Tuesday 4/30	Field Experience Presentation Day 1	<i>All components of Field Experience Portfolio Due on BB</i>
Thursday 5/2	Field Experience Presentation Day 2	
FINALS WEEK		
Tuesday 5/11	Last Day to submit late assignments for partial credit.	

Note: Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary, with notification to students.

Core Values Commitment

The College of Education and Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles: <http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/>.

GMU Policies and Resources for Students

Policies

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code (see <http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/>).
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing (see <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>).
- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their Mason email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students **solely** through their Mason email account.
- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services. Approved accommodations will begin at the time the written letter from Disability Services is received by the instructor (see <http://ods.gmu.edu/>).
- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be silenced during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

Campus Resources

- Support for submission of assignments to Tk20 should be directed to tk20help@gmu.edu or <https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/tk20>. Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to <http://coursesupport.gmu.edu/>.
- For information on student support resources on campus, see <https://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus>.

For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, please visit our website <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students>.