



College of Education and Human Development

Early Childhood Education Program
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<https://gse.gmu.edu/programs/earlychildhood/>

EDUC 302.B01: Human Growth and Development (3:3:0)
Summer 2016, 6/06 – 7/30
Mondays, Wednesdays, 4:30 – 7:10 pm
West 1008

Instructor: Mona Assaf, PhD

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Office hours: Before or after class or by appointment

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.

Nature of Course Delivery

This course utilizes a distributed learning format requiring timely and active participation of all students throughout the semester. Activities to support student achievement of the learning outcomes include instructor presentations, videos, student team presentations, collaborative student work in small groups in class and in online discussion groups, assigned readings, and projects leading to written products. Students engage in timely critical reflection and class discussion related to the learning activities.

Learner Outcomes

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

This course is aligned with the standards established by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC).

Required Texts

Berk, L. (2014). *Exploring lifespan development* (3rd ed.). Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon. ISBN 10: 0205968961

Supplemental materials will be posted on the Blackboard website.

GMU Policies and Resources for Students

- a. Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code/>].
- b. Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>].
- c. Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University 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.
- d. The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance [See <http://caps.gmu.edu/>].
- e. Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester [See <http://ods.gmu.edu/>].
- f. Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.
- g. The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing [See <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>].

Professional Dispositions

Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

Core Values Commitment

The College of Education & 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/>].

For GSE Syllabi

For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, Graduate School of Education, please visit our website [See <http://gse.gmu.edu/>].

Course Requirements

Note: The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus as needed. If changes are made, students will be notified of them in class or by their Mason e-mail address.

General Requirements

1. The completion of all readings assigned for the course is assumed. Because the class will be structured around discussion and small-group activities, it is imperative that students keep up with the readings and participate in class and online.
2. Participation in class and/or online is important to students' learning; therefore, students are expected to make every effort to attend class sessions and/or complete online tasks within the designated timeframe. Absences, tardiness, leaving early, and not completing online tasks in the designated timeframe may negatively affect course grades. If, due to an emergency, students will not be in class, they must call the instructor and leave a message or send an email before class. The following policy is from the university course catalog:
Students are expected to attend the class periods of the courses for which they register. In-class participation is important not only to the individual student, but also to the class as a whole. Because class participation may be a factor in grading, instructors may use absence, tardiness, or early departure as de facto evidence of nonparticipation. Students who miss an exam with an acceptable excuse may be penalized according to the individual instructor's grading policy, as stated in the course syllabus.
3. In line with Mason's policy that students should not be penalized because of observances of their religious holidays, students shall be given an opportunity to make up, within a reasonable time, any academic assignment that is missed due to individual participation in religious observances. It is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor of any intended absences for religious observations in advance of the class that will be missed. Notice should be provided in writing as soon as possible.
4. During face-to-face and live online meetings, the use of cell phones, smart phones, and other communicative devices is not allowed in this class. Students may use laptops, tablets, or other electronic devices for taking notes or reading electronic copies of assignments. Engaging in activities not related to the course (e.g., gaming, emailing, texting) may result in a reduction in the participation grade, loss of this privilege, or confiscation of the device for the remainder of the class period.
5. It is expected that assignments will be turned in on time. However, it is recognized that students occasionally have serious problems that prevent work completion. If such a dilemma arises, students should speak to the instructor prior to the assignment due date (when possible). If the student does not communicate with the instructor prior to the due date, a late penalty of about 5% will be applied.
6. Mason is an Honor Code university; please see the Office for Academic Integrity for a full description of the code and the honor committee process. The principle of academic integrity is taken very seriously and violations are treated gravely. What does academic integrity mean in this course? Essentially this: when responsible for a task, students will perform that task. When students rely on someone else's work in an aspect of the performance of that task, they will give full credit in the proper, accepted form. Another aspect of academic integrity is the free play of ideas. Vigorous discussion and debate are encouraged in this course, with the firm expectation that all aspects of the class will be

conducted with civility and respect for differing ideas, perspectives, and traditions. When in doubt (of any kind), students will ask for guidance and clarification.

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 web 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.

Submission Protocol

The standard submission, unless told otherwise, is through the Assignments section of Blackboard. If there are any issues with this process, students should e-mail the instructor with the assignment attached and, in the meantime, resolve the Blackboard issue with the Mason tech team.

Grading Criteria

A = 95-100	A- = 90-94	B+ = 87-89	B = 83-86
B- = 80-82	C = 70-79	D = 69-60	F = < 60

Grading Policy

All CEHD undergraduate and graduate 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 enrolled in a CEHD Licensure Graduate Certificate program, however, must earn a B- or better in all licensure coursework. A degree-seeking graduate student will be dismissed after accumulating grades of F in two courses or 9 credits of unsatisfactory grades (C or F) in graduate courses. A 3.0 grade point average is required for completion of the graduate degree.

Specific Course Requirements

Attendance and Participation	15 points
Journal Entries (4 entries, 2.5 points each)	10 points
Article Review and Reflection	10 points
Brief Research Report	20 points
Field Experience Presentation and Report	25 points
Final Exam	20 points
TOTAL	100 points

Attendance and Participation (15 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 complete readings and prepare for class activities prior to class as is 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 is evidenced by (1) participating in all activities, (2) engaging in small- and large-group discussions, (3) using laptops and other electronic devices only to support discussion and learning and not for nonacademic uses during class time, (4) completing written work related to the activities, and (5) supporting the participation and learning of classmates.
- Students show evidence of critical reflective thinking through in-class and online discussions, activities, and written reflections.

This includes attendance (2 points), online chapter quizzes (6 points), and other types of participation (7 points).

Note: To determine whether the campus is closed due to inclement weather, call 703-993-1000 or go to www.gmu.edu.

Journal Entries (10 points)

Students are responsible for writing four (4) journal entries that reflect deeper thinking on the class material and class discussion. Students may choose any topic from the reading for that week. Journal entries should be deeply reflective about the topic, considering multiple perspectives including your own personal perspective. Journal entries should be no longer than one (1) page double-spaced

Article Review and Reflection (10 points)

Due: In class during 8 sessions

Students will select an article from a variety of topics provided by the instructor that is related to human growth and development (excluding newspaper articles). This activity will take place during eight of the class sessions. Three or four students will be responsible for presenting information and facilitating a reflective discussion with a small group of peers on a topic related to that evening's class topic. On the assigned night, students must bring 5 copies of a review sheet that they produced to share with their classmates in a small group. A sign-up form will be available for students to choose a night for their presentation and facilitation.

Brief Research Report (20 points)

Research and Practice in Human Growth and Development: 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 library session with Anne Driscoll (adrisco2@gmu.edu) and further discussion with the instructor, students are to find at least 3 scholarly, peer-reviewed articles that cover their topic of interest that have been published in the past decade. They can and should incorporate older references, nonpeer-reviewed sources, or additional peer-reviewed sources. The paper should include a literature review, synthesis, and reflection guided by the following questions: How is this information helpful for practitioners? Are there gaps in the knowledge? How does the student plan on using this information in the future? The paper should not exceed 6 pages plus title and reference pages.

Field Experience Presentation and Report (25 points)**A. Presentation**

Students will spend a significant portion of the semester observing and reflecting on their field experience. Since everyone's experience will be different, students can all learn from each other. Students will present their Field Experience to the class in small groups. Students may use PowerPoint or other materials to convey their presentation. The exact time allotted per student for their presentation is TBD and will be based on the amount of students enrolled in the course.

B. Report

Students will write a *Field Experience Report* 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 <http://cehd.gmu.edu/endorse/ferf>. **They should arrange their field experience with the field experience coordinator by June 10.** If this is a concern, please see the instructor immediately. Students will submit a paragraph summary of what they plan to do for the observation by **June 13.**

The final Field Experience Report should be one document that includes four sections:

1. a description of what was observed (lessons, activities, etc.), a description of the methods and materials used to meet the objectives of the lesson, and a description of how learning was assessed;
2. a description of the student needs (physical, emotional, social, intellectual) and how they were supported in the lesson, citing and integrating the theories/concepts of development discussed in the course;
3. a reflection of the field experience;
4. a completed field experience log signed by the teacher/supervisor (appended).

The full report should be submitted as one document of no more than 5 pages plus title, reference, and appendix pages.

Final Exam (20 points)

Due: 7/26

Course Schedule

Date	Topic and Associated Readings	Assignments Due
June 6	Introductions and overview of course, Blackboard (BB), and field experience <u>History, Theory, and Research Strategies</u>	Chapter 1
June 8	<u>Biological & Environmental Foundations</u>	Chapter 2 (<u>Quiz 1: chapter 1</u>)
June 13	<u>Prenatal, Birth, Newborn</u>	Chapter 3 Field Experience Observation of Intent Paragraph: Post to BB Journal Entry #1: Post to BB
June 15	<u>Infancy and Toddlerhood</u> Physical Development <i>Library Research Session</i>	Chapter 4 (<u>Quiz 2: chapter 3</u>) Come to class with at least one topic of interest to research for the research report
June 20	<u>First Two Years of Life</u> Cognitive and Emotional Development	Chapters 5 and 6
June 22	<u>Early Childhood</u> Physical and Cognitive Development	Chapter 7 Journal Entry #2: Post to BB
June 27	<u>Early Childhood</u> Self and Emotional Development	Chapter 8 (<u>Quiz 3: chapter 7</u>)
June 29	<u>Middle Childhood: Six to Eleven Years</u> Physical and Cognitive Development Social and Emotional Development	Chapters 9 & 10 (<u>Quiz 4: chapter 8</u>) Journal Entry #3: Post to BB
July 4	Independence Day Holiday-NO CLASS	
July 6	<u>Adolescence: The Transition to Adulthood</u> Physical and Cognitive Development Social and Emotional Development	Chapters 11 & 12 Final Brief Research Report: Post to BB & bring a copy for peer review
July 11	<u>Early Adulthood</u> Physical and Cognitive Development Social and Emotional Development	Chapter 13 & 14 (<u>Quiz 5: chapter 14</u>)
July 13	<u>Middle Adulthood</u> Physical and Cognitive Changes Emotional and Social Development	Chapters 15 & 16 Journal Entry #4: Post to BB
July 18	<u>Late Adulthood</u> Physical and Cognitive Development Social and Emotional Development	Chapters 17 & 18 (<u>Quiz 6: chapter 16</u>)
July 20	<u>Transition</u>	Chapter 19
July 25	Class Presentations	Field Experience Presentation Field Experience Report (with completed contact hour form) Post to BB)