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

ECED 501.001/P01 - Developmental Pathways of Diverse Learners, Birth-Adolescence  
3 Credits, Fall 2017  
Thursdays 7:20 – 10:00 pm  
Hanover Hall L002, Fairfax Campus

Faculty  
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Prerequisites/Corequisites  
None

University Catalog Course Description  
Examines child and adolescent development from diverse perspectives. Addresses typical and  
atypical physical, social, emotional, language, and intellectual development. Explores role of  
individual differences and culture in understanding and interpreting child and adolescent  
development. 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 and discussion format.

Learner Outcomes or Objectives  
This course is designed to enable students to do the following:  
1. Describe the major theories of development and critically examine the theories as they apply  
to the lives of culturally, linguistically, and ability diverse children and their families.  
2. Examine the transactional nature of overall development in the context of the family,  
community, socioeconomic conditions, and culture.  
3. Identify typical developmental milestones of diverse children from birth through adolescence  
and their cultural and socioeconomic variations.  
4. Observe and describe overall development in the social and emotional domains as well as  
physical and cognitive as it occurs in natural environments and through play.  
5. Identify environmental and biological/physical/medical at-risk factors that can contribute to  
possible developmental risk and atypical development across the physical, cognitive, social,  
and emotional domains.  
6. Discuss the etiology of major disabilities as well as giftedness.  
7. Select culturally and linguistically appropriate resources to use with diverse families and
their children.
8. Identify culturally and linguistically responsive professional practices that facilitate development in the physical, cognitive, social, and emotional domains.
9. Explain the effects of child abuse and neglect on development.

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:

CEC Standard Elements
CEC 1.1 Beginning special education professionals understand how language, culture, and family background influence the learning of individuals with exceptionalities.
CEC 1.2 Beginning special education professionals use understanding of development and individual differences to respond to the needs of individuals with exceptionalities.

NAEYC Standard Elements
NAEYC 1a Knowing and understanding young children’s characteristics and needs.
NAEYC 1b Knowing and understanding the multiple influences on development and learning.

Required Texts

This course also requires reading published journal articles on human development. Example journals include the following: Early Education and Development, Child Development, and Human Development. These and other journals are available on the Mason library 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).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Developmental Theory Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Case Studies Analysis Paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Infant/Toddler</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Preschool</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Early Elementary</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Key Assessment 2: Full Case Studies Analysis uploaded to Tk20 on Bb</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A penalty of about 5% may be assessed for late submissions</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>100</td>
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• Grading

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

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.

• Assignments and/or Examinations

Developmental Theory Presentation (15 points)
In order that all class members leave this course with an overview of the most prominent
developmental theories in the field of early childhood education and gain a critical perspective
on the values and liabilities of different theories and their application, students will prepare a
review of a major developmental theory and associated theorists. Grand theories covered in the
text include psychodynamic theories, behaviorist theories, Piaget’s constructive theory, and
Vygotsky’s sociocultural theory. Modern theories covered include evolutionary theories, social
learning theories, information-processing theories, and systems theories. Students will select one
perspective and prepare a 15-minute presentation that includes at least the following:

• Important theorists within the particular paradigm
• Key tenets of the theory
• How theory explains cultural differences that are apparent in development
• How theory explains variation in development, including disabilities
• Weaknesses and strengths of theory
• The impact of the theory on education
• An interactive activity that highlights some aspect of the theory

Students will create a one-page handout (one copy for each student) summarizing or describing
the seven elements of the presentation and including a reference list using APA format. The main
source of information will be course textbooks; however, at least one other scholarly source
should be consulted and cited.

Understanding and Integrating Developmental Pathways Case Studies Analysis (75
points)
This is Key Assessment 2 Content Knowledge: Understanding Development and Learning Case
Studies Analysis that shows evidence of meeting CEC and NAECY Standards. Students will
submit the case studies analysis in three parts: (a) infant/toddler, (b) preschool, and (c) early
elementary. Students will consolidate the three case study analyses into one document and will
submit the consolidated document to Tk20 through Blackboard. Final course grades will not be
released until the consolidated document is uploaded. The assessment description and scoring
rubric are attached. Each case study analysis is worth 25 points and requires the following parts:
• Part 1: Identifying Children’s Unique Characteristics and Needs (12 points)
• Part 2: Describing Developmental Theories (6 points)
• Part 3: Multiple Influences on Young Children’s Development (7 points)

• Other Requirements

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 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.

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.
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.
## Class Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Assignments &amp; Readings Due</th>
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| #1: Aug 31 | Orientation & syllabus review  
The study of human development   | Chapter 1                                                       |
| #2: Sep 7  | Developmental theories  
Biocultural foundations          | Chapter 2                                                       |
| #3: Sep 14 | Prenatal development & birth                                        | Chapter 3                                                       |
| #4: Sep 21 | The first three months                                                | Chapter 4                                                       |
|           | **Presentations: Grand Theories**                                      |                                                                 |
| #5. Sep 28 | Infancy: Physical & cognitive development                             | Chapter 5                                                       |
|           | **Presentations: Modern Theories**                                    |                                                                 |
| #6. Oct 5  | Infancy: Social & emotional development                               | Chapter 6                                                       |
| #7. Oct 12 | Cultural contexts of development                                      | Chapter 10                                                      |
| #8. Oct 19 | Language acquisition                                                  | Chapter 7                                                       |
|           | **Due to Bb – CSA-1: Infant/Toddler**                                 |                                                                 |
| #9. Oct 26 | Early Childhood: Physical & cognitive development                      | Chapter 8                                                       |
| #10: Nov 2 | Early Childhood: Social & emotional development                       | Chapter 9                                                       |
| #11: Nov 9 | Middle Childhood: Physical & cognitive development                    | Chapter 11                                                      |
|           | **Due to Bb – CSA-2: Preschool**                                      |                                                                 |
| #12: Nov 16 | School as a context for development                                 | Chapter 12                                                      |
| Nov 23    | **No Class – Thanksgiving Holiday**                                    |                                                                 |
| #13: Nov 30 | Middle Childhood: Social & emotional development                      | Chapter 13                                                      |
| #14: Dec 7 | Adolescence: Physical, cognitive, social, & emotional development     | Chapters 14-15                                                  |
|           | **Due to Bb – CSA-3: Early Elementary**                               |                                                                 |
|           | **Due to Tk20 on Bb – Full CSA Paper**                                |                                                                 |
| Dec 14    | **No Class – Finals Week**                                            | Last day to submit late assignments                            |

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/](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://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code/).

- 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://coursessupport.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/.