

## **PSY 3315 Child Psychology Fall 2009**

**Instructor:** Kristi Cordell-McNulty  
**Email:** kmcnulty@angelo.edu  
**Phone:** 325-942-2219 ext 253

**Office:** Academic Building 204A  
**Office Hours:** M & W 2-4 pm  
T & R 1-4 pm

### **Course Objectives:**

At the conclusion of the course, you should be able to:

- Describe major theories and research in child psychology.
- Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of major theories and research in child psychology.
- Apply principles and concepts from psychological theories and research in assessing children's cognitive, emotional, and social development.

### **Required Readings:**

Child Development (8<sup>th</sup> ed.) By Laura Berk. ISBN: 0-205-61559-7/978-0-205-61559-9

### **Course Requirements:**

**Exams:** There will be three non-cumulative exams. Items on exams may be multiple choice, short answer, essay, or any combination of those forms. Exams will include information from handouts, discussions, lectures, homework assignments, and class activities.

**Classroom Debate:** Over the course of semester there will be five debates on current issues that are related to child psychology. Each debate will have pro and con side that will consist of five students. Each student will write a short response (3-6 pages, double-spaced) explaining their side of the issue using the textbook, research articles, and other instructor approved sources. Students are encouraged to meet with the other students in their group to discuss ideas and strategies. In class, both groups will present their side and then the groups will formally debate each other.

**Child Observation Project:** The goal of this project is to develop your ability to use theory and research to assess the development of children. This project will involve observing a child (infant through age 11) and then writing a report about your observations and how they relate to what we are covering in class. You can observe any child, for example, a child in your family or children playing at the park. There is no time requirement for observations, though you probably need to observe at least 5-10 minutes in most cases. You then will write a detailed description of your observations. Next you will need to relate what you observed to a particular theory or topic we covered in class. Give a brief description of the theory then explain how your observations are related to the theory. Then explain if this seems to be typical or atypical development according to the theory. Finally, explain what a caregiver could do to make sure the child progresses to the next stage/level of development according to the theory. Detailed observations should be approximately two pages. The write up of how the observations relate to a particular theory approximately 4-6 pages.



**Grading Policies:** To be fair to all students in this class, all assignments are due on time at the beginning of class. Late work will lose one letter grade for each day late (e.g., a B project will become a C project if it is turned in a day late). No exams will be given early. Make-up exams will only be given in case of emergency IF a student notifies me BEFORE the exam is given and provides appropriate supporting documentation for the absence. Otherwise, the student will receive a zero for the missed exam. Caps and hats should not be worn during exams, and **cell phones must be turned off and out of sight during exams. Pulling out your cell phone during an exam may result in a zero for the exam.**

**Honor Code:** Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is available on the web at <http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/honorcode5.pdf>.

**Supplemental Instruction:** Information about becoming a more effective and efficient learner is available through the Dept. of Psychology & Sociology website at [www.angelo.edu/dept/psychology\\_sociology/index.htm](http://www.angelo.edu/dept/psychology_sociology/index.htm).

**Writing Center:** The ASU Writing Center (942-2093) is located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the ASU Library in 305C. Writing Center tutors can work with students in any discipline and at any skill level.

**Disabilities:** Persons with disabilities that warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center (942-2193), in order to request such accommodations prior to their being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

**Please note: This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.**

Date	Topics	Homework Due
Aug 25	Intro	
Aug 27	Chapter 1	
Sep 1	Chapter 2	
Sep 3	Chapter 3	
Sep 8		
Sep 10	Chapter 4	<b>Debate 1</b>
Sep 15		
Sep 17	Chapter 5	
Sep 22		
Sep 24	<b>Exam 1</b>	
Sep 29	Chapter 6	
Oct 1		<b>Debate 2</b>
Oct 6	Chapter 7	
Oct 8		
Oct 13	Chapter 9	
Oct 15		
Oct 20	Chapter 10	
Oct 22		<b>Debate 3</b>
Oct 27	Chapter 11	
Oct 29	<b>Exam 2</b>	
Nov 3		
Nov 5	Chapter 12	<b>Debate 4</b>
Nov 10		
Nov 12	Chapter 13	
Nov 17		
Nov 19	Chapter 14	
Nov 24		<b>Debate 5</b>
Nov 26	Thanksgiving, No Class	
Dec 1	Chapter 15	
Dec 3		<b>Child Observation Project</b>
Dec 8	<b>Final Exam 10:30 am</b>	