Instructor: Steffany J. Homolka, Ph.D.
Office: 204H, Academic Building
Office Hours: By online reservation (see below)
Email: steffany.homolka@angelo.edu
Phone: 325-486-6167

Course Prerequisite: PSY 2301 General Psychology


Other Required Materials
- Computer with a MAC or Windows Operating System, Microsoft Office Word & Microsoft PowerPoint (97-2003, 2007, and/or 2010)
- Webcam
- Ethernet Cable for Testing and Collaborate
- High Speed Internet- Refer to Angelo State University’s Distance Education Website for further technology requirements [https://www.angelo.edu/online-education/index.php](https://www.angelo.edu/online-education/index.php)

Course Description: This course focuses on the physical, cognitive and socioemotional development from birth through childhood. Topics include childbirth, bonding, parenting styles, abuse, divorce, day care, and the role of genetic and environmental factors in the development of individual differences and similarities. Furthermore, the course will encourage students to think critically about developmental psychology research and theory and apply their knowledge of developmental psychology to everyday experiences and observations.

Course Objectives:
1. Gain factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends)
2. Learn fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories
3. Learn to apply course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions)

Student Learning Outcomes:
By the end of the semester, you should be able to:
1. Assess the biological, cognitive, cultural, environmental and psychosocial factors that influence child development.
2. Apply developmental psychology principles to daily life.
3. Describe methodological approaches used to study child development.
4. Assess and critically analyze theories, research methodologies, findings (outcomes), and applications found within developmental psychology of children.

Course Policies:
1. Read the syllabus, course schedule, and assignment options documents thoroughly. If
anything is unclear, read them again to ensure you are not simply missing or misreading something. If you still have concerns, please contact Dr. Homolka.

2. Cheating on a quiz or exam, plagiarism, self-plagiarism, and misrepresenting yourself or another student will not be tolerated. Familiarize yourself with the ASU academic honesty regulations at http://www.angelo.edu/content/files/17358-university-honor-code

3. The syllabus is tentative and is subject to revision during the course.

4. Unless otherwise noted, due dates refer to 11:59 p.m. of that day.

5. You are responsible for all material covered in class and changes to the syllabus.

6. If you have any significant concerns related to this class, please speak with Dr. Homolka as soon as possible. As a general rule, you should raise any issues within one week of receiving a grade or completing a given project and the first step a student should take to address any significant concerns about a class should be to discuss this with the instructor.

7. Students are expected to take responsibility for their success in class. You will have to ensure that you keep pace with the course schedule. If you manage your time efficiently, work diligently on course content, and keep pace with the schedule, you will fare well in this online course.

8. Note that a majority of tasks for each module are due on Friday, and then Tuesday and Wednesday of the following week (though this differs slightly for Module 4). You may want to reserve each Thursday for reading the chapters assigned to that module. Please plan your schedule accordingly. I strongly recommend that you use a planner to stay on track with the course requirements.

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Communication

- The best way to communicate with me one-on-one is to schedule office hours (virtual or in-person) to meet with me. When meeting with me, please introduce yourself.
- The second best way to communicate with me one-on-one is via email. All emails should include the course title or number in the subject line. They should also include your first and last name.
- If you have a question that other students may also have about the course, please post this question to the I Have a Question Discussion Board and I will answer it as soon as possible.
- The worst way to communicate with me is to call my office phone number. I am not in my office frequently during the summer. Thus, if you call, I will likely not be there and will not be able to return your call promptly. Please keep this in mind if you are trying to reach me.
- If you have a specific question that you email me, please write out that question. For example, do not write, ‘I need help with question 1,’ instead write, ‘I need help with question 1, give an example of critical thinking.’
- Emails sent during the week (Monday-Friday at 5pm) will be answered within 24 hours. Emails sent after 5pm on Friday may not be answered until Monday.
- Please be respectful in your emails. This includes addressing the professor properly (i.e., Dr.) and signing your full name. Emails that are not respectful will not be answered.

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Office Hours:

All students wanting to meet with me, Dr. Homolka, must sign-up for office hours using the below directions. Please reserve office hours at least 24 hours in advance. If you reserve your time slot with less than 24 hours of notice, I may not be in the office when you visit for in-person appointment or have access to a computer for a virtual appointment. If my office hours do not work well with your schedule, please feel free to contact me to schedule a meeting at a time that works for best for both of us.
To reserve office hours:
1. Sign into your ASU Gmail account.
2a. For IN-PERSON office hours, go to https://goo.gl/tAoJoZ
2b. For VIRTUAL office hours, go to https://goo.gl/JBtKSc
3. Using the arrows near the top left side of the page, choose the correct week for which you to want to schedule office hours.
4. Select the time you want to meet. These are set for 30-minute time slots. If you need more than 30 minutes, then you will need to reserve multiple time slots. If you need less than 30 minutes, please schedule the time slot(s) that would be during those 15 minutes.
5. When you select a time slot, type your first and last name in the text box titled "What" and, if necessary, describe why you are scheduling office hours in the Description section.
6. Click Save

Course Requirements:

Syllabus, Course Schedule, & Assignment Options Respondus Quiz: This quiz is designed to familiarize students with the course expectations and the Respondus System testing technology. You will have unlimited attempts to complete it accurately by the date listed in the syllabus. You may refer to the course materials as you complete the quiz. **In order to take quizzes and the final exam, you must have the following: (1) a computer with Mac or Windows Operating System, (2) access to high-speed internet via (3) an Ethernet cable, and (4) webcam.**

Module Quizzes: There will be four multiple-choice Blackboard module quizzes, based on the chapters assigned for that module. Each quiz will contain 20 knowledge-based multiple-choice questions focusing on key terms and facts within each chapter. **The lowest quiz grade out of 4 will be dropped. You will have 2 days to complete each quiz by the due date listed in the course schedule (usually Wednesdays).** Once you open the quiz, you will have to complete it in that sitting. You will have 60 minutes to complete the quiz. Quizzes will be through Respondus Lockdown Browser and will be video recorded via Respondus Monitor. If you lose connection to the internet while taking the quiz, you will be unable to continue taking the quiz once you reconnect.

Since quizzes are online, available for 2 days, and all students are required to complete a syllabus Respondus quiz to ensure the technology works, failure to complete the quiz on time will result in a ‘0’ for the quiz, unless you provide reasonable documentation explaining your inability to complete the quiz (e.g., doctor’s note). If you receive a ‘0’ on one quiz, it will be considered the lowest grade and dropped. Receiving a ‘0’ for two or more exams will lower your grade.

Activities: Each week you will have one to two short activities that you must complete that are located in Blackboard. These activities vary in form; some will require watching or finding videos, others completing specific tasks, and/or just answering questions.

Class Engagement Discussion Boards: Students will be divided into two discussion group in order to ensure following along with the discussion is manageable for all. The class engagement discussion board is meant to simulate discussion of the readings and assignments that would normally happen in a traditional classroom setting. Four questions are posted throughout the course and students will respond to each of these questions. **The response to the question must be posted**
by Friday, 11:59 pm (CST) of the current week. Points will be deducted for late posts. Students also need to respond to two comments made by other students or the instructor. These responses must be completed by Tuesday at 11:59 pm (CST) of the following week. Students may post response posts earlier than Tuesday if other students have already commented. Any posts after 11:59 pm on Tuesday will not be accepted. Students may post as many times as they like, however, only the first original post and first two responses to other students’ posts will be graded. Students must also check the discussion board and respond to comments by the instructor and other students on their original posts. Failure to answer questions that others have made about your posts will result in a loss of points. Points will also be deducted for generic (e.g., “I agree.”), vague, and/or inaccurate posts. Please see the discussion board rubric for more details. Students are encouraged to record and submit Kaltura videos as their responses rather than text, if they so desire.

Test Question Discussion Boards & Assignments: In order to encourage students to encode the course material more deeply and prepare students for the cumulative exam, each student must create three multiple-choice questions per chapter based on the Important Terms and Concepts of each chapter. The first question should be relatively easy to answer, the second question should be moderately difficult to answer, and the third question should emphasize application of learned knowledge. Each question should be on a different Important Term or Concept. Students must post their test questions to the Test Questions Discussion Boards as well as submit a document (as a Turnitin assignment) containing (A) the questions with the answers, (B) the textbook page number for each answer, and (C) any additional information to better understand the question and/or answer, if necessary, by Friday at 11:59 p.m. (CST) of each week. Failure to do all of the above will result in 0 points for that module. Never post an answer to a test question on the Test Question Discussion Board. Students’ test questions must not duplicate or closely resemble other students’ test questions. Hence, please review other students’ questions prior to posting yours. Given that the cumulative exam will utilize students’ submitted questions, this method allows all students to see all other students’ test questions and use the discussion boards as a study guide. Points will be deducted for late posts and for questions that are similar to other students’ already posted test questions. Grace will be given to those students who post similar questions at practically the same time. Example questions for each difficulty level and/or style are posted in Blackboard. You will be graded on the completion of the task as instructed, accuracy of the questions and answers, and quality of the questions (e.g., grammar, difficulty level).

Cumulative Exam: There is a cumulative, multiple-choice, Respondus exam at the end of this course. The majority of the questions for the exam will be drawn from the test questions students created and posted to the Test Questions Discussion Boards. Students may refer to the Test Questions Discussion Board to study. The exam will be available for two days and students will have three hours to complete the exam by the date listed in the course schedule. Please note that you will not be given online access to the Cumulative Exam until you submit your Final Assignment(s).

Final Assignment(s): You will be required to complete one or more assignments (based on your choice) for this course. These assignments are designed to be enjoyable hands-on experiences in observing and applying the child development knowledge you gain in class. They may include papers, activities, and more. Further details regarding these assignments are provided on Blackboard within the Final Assignment Options document. You must submit your Final Assignment(s) in order to be granted access to the Final Cumulative Exam.
**Grade Points Distribution:** The percentages listed are an approximate estimate of the degree to which that particular task will account for your total grade. There may be more or less percentage points depending on how much material is covered in class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Percentage of Grade</th>
<th>Grade Points Distribution</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syllabus, Course Schedule, &amp; Assignment Options</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondus Quiz</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Weekly Reading Quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Activities</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Engagement Discussion Boards</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Test Questions Discussion Boards &amp; Assignments</td>
<td>18%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Assignment(s)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cumulative Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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**Final Grades:**

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>89.5-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>79.5-89.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>69.5-79.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69.4 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 60%</td>
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**Extra Credit:**

1. For every 24 hours early that you turn in your assignment, you will receive 0.5% extra credit points. Students can earn a max of 5% extra credit points altogether by turning their assignment in up to 10 days early.
2. Students who submit their paper to the writing center for help will receive 2% extra credit points on their assignment.
3. **Every student who contacts IT first if they have a tech problem** and every student who never needs to do so because they do not experience a tech problem will receive 2% extra credit points. **Students who contact Dr. Homolka regarding a technology problem before contacting IT will not receive extra credit.**
4. See the Assignment Options document for additional extra credit opportunities.
5. Other extra credit opportunities may be announced at the professor’s discretion. Such opportunities will be available to all students. **No individual student can earn extra credit opportunities exclusive to them.**

**Student Support:**

I am available throughout the course to meet with students for both further exploration of the class’ topics and academic support for those who may struggle with the class’ requirements or topics. If there is a particular child development psychology topic not covered in class that interests you, please let me know. I would be happy to help you further explore different developmental psychology topics outside of class and may even consider incorporating such topics into the course. If you are struggling in class, please arrange to talk with me.

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the
course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students for support. Furthermore, please notify me if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable me to provide any resources that I may possess.

_Students registered with the Office of Disability Services_ are especially encouraged to set up a time to meet with me so we can discuss any needs for additional individual arrangements.

_Parents:_
I understand that often the largest barrier to completing your online coursework once you become a parent is the tiredness many parents feel in the evening once children have finally gone to sleep. I hope that you will feel comfortable disclosing your student-parent status to me. This is the first step in my being able to accommodate any special needs that arise. While I maintain the same high expectations for all student in my classes regardless of parenting status, I am happy to problem solve with you in a way that makes you feel supported as you strive for school-parenting balance.

_Tutoring:_ The ASU Writing Center and ASU Tutor Center are available and I strongly encourage you to take advantage of these resources. These services are likely to increase students’ grades and future academic performance. The ASU Tutor Center (C301) and ASU Writing Center (C305; 942-2093) are located on the third floor of the ASU Library. Writing Center and Tutor Center can work with students in any discipline and at any skill level. Both centers are free to all ASU students. Students struggling to understand the material or keep up with class are also encouraged to contact me. I am happy to offer whatever support I can provide within reason.

_Title IX:_ Angelo State University is committed to the safety and security off all students. If you or someone you know experience sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic or dating violence, stalking, or discrimination, you may contact ASU’s Title IX Coordinator, Michelle Boone at 325-486-6357.

_Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Days:_ A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence.

_Academic Honesty & 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](http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/honorcode5.pdf). Academic honesty is expected on all work. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject of disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU.

The Department of Psychology and Sociology adheres to the academic honesty statement as set forth in the Angelo State University Student Handbook (2017-2018) [http://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/](http://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/). The University "faculty expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experience both in and out of the classroom setting and may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials."

_Writing Support & Plagiarism_
Plagiarism and self-plagiarism at ASU is a serious topic. Angelo State University’s Honor Code gives specific details on plagiarism and what it encompasses. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else's work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one's own. Plagiarism is literary theft. **Self-plagiarism** occurs when you submit part or all of your own work (e.g., a paper) that you have previously submitted for a different assignment without proper citation and my expression permission. In your assignments, it is unacceptable to copy word for word without quotation marks and the source of the quotation. Plagiarism and self-plagiarism will NOT be tolerated in this course and committing them will result in a 0 for the assignment in question. Further actions may be taken if such behavior appears to be blatant or repetitive.

We use the APA Style Manual of the American Psychological Association as a guide for all writing assignments. Quotes should be used sparingly. **It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas, giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper and the reference list.** Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality via Bb Turnitin. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the ASU Writing Center [http://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/academic_honesty.php](http://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/academic_honesty.php). Tips for writing and a description of how to cite sources using APA style are also available on Blackboard. You are also welcome to ask me for help along these lines.

**Students with Disabilities**

Angelo State University is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA), and subsequent legislation. Educational access is the provision of classroom accommodations, auxiliary aids and services to ensure equal educational opportunities for all students regardless of their disability.

The Office of Student Affairs is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability, and it is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting the Office of Student Affairs, University Center, Room 112 at (325) 942-2047 or (325) 942-2211 (TDD/FAX) or by e-mail at studentservices@angelo.edu to begin the process. The Office of Student Affairs will establish the particular documentation requirements necessary for the various types of disabilities. Reasonable accommodations will be made for students determined to be disabled or who have documented disabilities.

Persons with disabilities that may warrant academic accommodations and any student who feels they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability must contact the Office of Student Affairs in order to request such accommodations prior to any accommodations being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

* Please note that this syllabus is subject to change throughout the course.