

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Division of Social Science
SOSC2990 Developmental Psychology
Spring Semester 2021
Course Syllabus

Lecturer	Teaching Assistant
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Lecture Time: Wednesday and Friday, 16:30-17:50

Zoom ID: 940 6477 2170

Course Description

From the moment we are born, our lives are shaped both by what we inherit from our biological parents and by the experiences we gain as we grow up. The examination of how we grow and change throughout our lifetime forms the foundation of developmental psychology. In this course, we will investigate physical, cognitive, and psychosocial development from infancy to late adulthood from a psychological perspective. Students should complete the course with a deeper understanding of key theories, research methods, and research findings on human development.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

Upon completion of this course, students are expected to be able to do the following:

1. Apply existing knowledge in psychology to the field of human development.
2. Gain fundamental knowledge about how humans develop over the lifespan.
3. Gain insight into how developmental psychology research is conducted.
4. Learn about recent research relevant to developmental psychology.
5. Understand the current broader issues related to lifespan development.

Assessment Scheme

Quizzes	30%
Self-Reflection Essay	35%
Group project	35%

1. Quizzes (30%) ILOs #1, #2, #3, #4, #5

- There are two quizzes to test your understanding of course materials. The quiz is an open-book, open-note quiz with a combination of multiple-choice questions, true or false questions, and short questions. The quizzes cover all materials in lectures and required readings.

- No make-up quiz will be given to students who are absent from the quiz unless there are validated medical reasons. You must present a written note from your doctor attesting to the fact that you were too ill to attend the quiz. This note must be presented to me to arrange for a make-up quiz. The make-up quiz will be in the form of essay questions.

2. Self-Reflection Essay (35%) ILOs #1, #2, #3, #4, #5

You are to apply a concept learned in class to your personal experience. The concept should come from one of the following lecture topics: Cognitive Development, Moral Development or Friendship. Illustrate the concept of your choice through your personal experience with reference to what you have learned in lecture about the concept. The Self-Reflection Essay is due by **HKT 11am May 17, 2021**.

3. Group Project (35%) ILOs #1, #2, #3, #4, #5

You are required to work in a group of 5-7 people to organize a talk for parents to address a common issue about child or adolescent development. Your talk should be delivered in a way that gives parents useful information and recommendations based on empirical research. You have to deliver the talk in class followed by a Q&A session. You also have to design a take-home help kit that supplements the parenting talk. The group project is due by **HKT 11am May 3, 2021**.

Required Textbook

Feldman, R. S. (2013). Life Span Development: Pearson New International Edition, 2nd Edition. Pearson. (Print ISBN: 9781292022161; eText ISBN: 9781292035369)

Academic Integrity

I expect all of you to observe the University's policies regarding academic integrity (<https://acadreg.ust.hk/generalreg.html#b>). Academic dishonesty such as plagiarism and cheating usually results in a reduced or failing grade in eth course. Please consult the teaching team if you are not clear about the guidelines.

Course Communication Platform

All lecture materials and announcements will be posted on CANVAS. Be sure to check CANVAS frequently for any updated news. You should configure your Canvas setting to enable email notification of announcements and new materials uploaded.

I believe interaction between the lecturer and the students is one of the key ingredients to an optimal learning experience. You can share any thoughts relevant to the course by email or talking to me in person. These can be things you come across in your everyday life which are related to what you have learned in class.

Your Feedback

Your opinions about the course are very valuable in helping me to improve the course. A course evaluation will be held at the end of the course. You are also very much welcome to talk to me.

Teaching Schedule

Lecture	Date	Topic
1.	Feb 3	Introduction
2.	Feb 5	
3.	Feb 10	
4.	Feb 17	Theories of Development
5.	Feb 19	
6.	Feb 24	
7.	Feb 26	Cognitive Development
8.	Mar 3	
9.	Mar 5	
10.	Mar 10	Dry Run for Quiz 1/ Moral Development
11.	Mar 12	Quiz 1
12.	Mar 17	Moral Development
13.	Mar 19	Group Project Consultation
14.	Mar 24	
15.	Mar 26	Social and Emotional Development
16.	Apr 7	
17.	Apr 9	Friendship
18.	Apr 14	
19.	Apr 16	Family Relationship
20.	Apr 21	
21.	Apr 23	Death and Dying
22.	Apr 28	
23.	Apr 30	Quiz 2
24.	May 5	Group Project Presentation
25.	May 7	

Important Dates

Date	Task
Feb 24	Submission of group list
Mar 10	Dry Run for Quiz 1
Mar 12	Quiz 1
Mar 17	Group Project Outline due
Mar 19/24	Group Project Consultation
Apr 30	Quiz 2
May 3	Group Project due
May 5/7	Group Project Presentation
May 10	Groupmate Evaluation due
May 17	Self-Reflection Essay due