

CHILD DEVELOPMENT – 7400:265
School of Family and Consumer Sciences – The University of Akron
Professor: Susan D. Witt, Ph.D.

Office 215-E SHS

Office Hours: M – 10:00-12:00

T/Th – 1:00-2:00

Also: By appointment

Phone: 330-972-7723

Meeting Time:

T/Th 10:45-12:00

Room 220 SHS

Email: susan8@uakron.edu

TEXTBOOK: Berk, L.E. (2008). *Infants and Children, 6th ed.* Boston: Pearson Allyn & Bacon, Publishers.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Physical, cognitive, language, social, emotional and personality development of the child from prenatal through age eight. Observation of children in early childhood educational settings.

COURSE OBJECTIVES – At the end of the course the student will be able to:

1. Understand the major theories and issues relating to child development.
 2. Apply theories of child development to issues of practical importance (such as parenting, gender role development, information processing, etc.).
 3. Understand the developmental changes that occur at each stage of development, from conception through middle childhood.
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COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1	Overview of course, requirements, grading scale Read Chapter 1 Topics: Principles of child development; methods of studying children <i>Thursday – Sign up for observations</i>
Week 2	Read Chapter 2 Topic: Theories of child development
Week 3	Read Chapter 3 Topics: Prenatal development; genetic & environmental influences
Week 4	Read Chapter 4 Topics: Prenatal development; adjustment to birth

- Week 5** **Tuesday: Exam 1** – Chapter 1, 2, 3, 4 and lecture notes
Thursday: Tour of Center for Child Development – class will meet at the Center (located on Fir Hill across from Martin Center)
- Week 6** Read Chapter 5
 Topic: Physical development in infancy and Toddlerhood; role of play for young children
Tuesday, Feb. 19 – Presidents' Day – No class
- Week 7** Read Chapter 6
 Topics: Cognitive development in infancy and toddlerhood; daycare for young children
Tuesday – Observation I due – Infant Development
- Week 8** Read Chapter 7
 Topics: Attachment and temperament
Tuesday - Observation II due – Motor Development and Play
Thursday: Exam 2 – Chapters 5, 6, 7 and lecture notes
- Week 9** Read Chapter 8
 Topics: Physical development in early childhood; nutrition for young children
Tuesday – Observation III due – Cognitive & Emotional Devel.
- S P R I N G B R E A K**
- Week 10** Read Chapter 9
 Topics: Cognitive development in early childhood; language development
Tuesday – Observation IV due – Gender Role Socialization
- Week 11** Read Chapter 10
 Topics: Child maltreatment; television and young children
Tuesday – Observation V due – Television & young children
- Week 12** Read Chapter 10
 Topic: Gender role development
Thursday: Exam 3 – Chapter 8, 9, 10 and lecture notes
- Week 13** Read Chapter 11
 Topics: Information processing; styles of learning

Week 14 Read Chapter 12
Topics: Parenting, discipline
Tuesday – Observation VI due – Case Study

Week 15 Read Chapter 13
Topic: School and young children
Tuesday – Course evaluations

Week 16 **Final exam – TBA**
Chapters 11, 12, 13 and lecture notes

ASSIGNMENT AND EXAM DUE DATES

Exam 1	Tue. Week 5	100 points
Exam 2	Thur. Week 8	100 points
Exam 3	Thur. Week 12	100 points
Exam 4	TBA – Week 16	100 points
Observations	Various – check weekly schedule	130 points

Total possible points for course **530 points**

GRADING SCALE

497-530 points	A	392-407 points	C
477-497 points	A-	371-391 points	C-
461-476 points	B+	355-370 points	D+
445-460 points	B	339-354 points	D
424-444 points	B-	318-338 points	D-
408-423 points	C+	Below 318 points	F

EXAMINATIONS

Examinations will cover material presented in class lectures and discussions, assigned readings and media presentations. Exams are expected to be taken on assigned dates. **If, for any reason, you miss an exam, the make-up exam will be given during final exam week. Please make a note of the exam dates on your syllabus.**

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is expected. We cover a lot of material and it will be much easier to keep up if you attend class regularly. If you have a problem that will affect your attendance, please come to me immediately to discuss it. **After two absences (for any reason), a five-point deduction will be taken from your total points for each absence.**

OBSERVATION ASSIGNMENTS

Observations are to be turned on the indicated due dates. Late papers will be accepted only by personal arrangement before the due date. Points will be deducted for late observations. Always keep all papers returned to you until the semester is over and final grades have been posted. There are six (6) observations for you to complete. The first

five observations are worth 20 points each; the case study observation is worth 30 points.
Please note the due dates for observations – do them in the order they are assigned.

DUE DATES FOR OBSERVATIONS

I	Infant Development	Tue. Week 7
II	Motor Development & Play`	Tue. Week 8
III	Cognitive and Emotional Development	Tue. Week 9
IV	Gender Role Socialization	Tue. Week 10
V	Television	Tue. Week 11
VI	Case Study	Tue. Week 14