

**DEVELOPMENTAL PARENT CHILD INTERACTIONS ONLINE -
7400:605**

**SCHOOL OF FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES
THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON**

Online via the Springboard Learning Management System

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[Course evaluation instructions appear at the end of this online syllabus.](#)

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Study of reciprocal interactions between parent and child from birth to adulthood. Consideration of cross-cultural, historical and societal influences and various family characteristics. Online course. Prerequisite: 7400:265 or permission of instructor.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Throughout this course students will have opportunities to do the following:

1. Understand and analyze the interaction between family issues and individual development as it relates to parent-child relationships.
2. Evaluate research and theory concerning parent-child relations.
3. Exchange information and ideas on parenting topics and issues through use of online communication.
4. Understand and be able to explain parenting within various family structures and family situations.
5. Examine and analyze the influence of culture and society on child rearing.
6. Evaluate, analyze, and apply the course material to parenting situations.
7. Develop a philosophy of parenting based on theory and practice.

GROUND RULES FOR THE COURSE

1. Read the syllabus carefully before beginning any assignments. If you have questions or anything is not clear, be sure to email the professor immediately with your questions.
2. All papers written for this course should be double-spaced and typed using no wider than one-inch margins, and no larger than a 12-point New Times Roman style font.
3. Be sure to save in your own personal files all papers written for this course and all feedback and grades I send to you. If for some reason a grade doesn't get reported, it is much easier to support your case that you completed all assignments if you have saved copies of your papers and professor feedback.
4. Be sure to put your name on ALL assignments you email to me.
5. Because this is an online course with a perpetual syllabus posted on the web (meaning no specific dates listed, only weeks), my suggestion is that you maintain a calendar with the dates marked that correspond to the numbered weeks of the semester. That way when you look at your syllabus and see, for example, that questions 5 and 6 are due on Monday of Week 4, you'll know exactly what the

date is for Monday of Week 4. Please note that because this course is offered in spring semester, I have included spring break week as part of the semester, even though no assignments are due that week.

6. [Click here for instructions](#) on how to access electronic reserve readings. Password for the readings is **witt605**.
7. If there is anything that will prevent you from turning in an assignment on time, it is very important that you let me know immediately. My expectation is that as graduate students, you are mature and motivated to do well in all your courses and will make every effort to keep up with your assignments. That being said, I do understand that sometimes things happen unexpectedly, and if that happens, I need to know so that we can discuss how best to proceed. Keep in mind that points will be deducted for late assignments. Assignments should be emailed to the professor before 5:00 p.m. on the day they are due.
8. One last suggestion - Because this course requires extensive reading and writing, it is a good idea to try to get ahead on assignments so that if something unexpected does happen, you are less likely to get behind.
9. Here are some links to resources that graduate students may find helpful.

[APA Research Style Crib Sheet](#)

[Time Management for University Students](#)

[Graduate Student Resources on the Web](#)

[How to Be a Good Graduate Student - Marie desJardins](#)

[Study Skills Self Help Information](#)

[Comprehensive Grad School Info](#)

[How to Succeed in Graduate School: A Guide for Students and Advisors - Marie desJardins](#)

COURSE OUTLINE	
Blue underlined text links to course materials	
Week 1	Developmental Theory and Parenting Readings: Course notes on Erikson, Bronfenbrenner, Systems Theory Answer questions 1 and 2 - Due Monday of Week 2
Week 2	Parent-Infant Interactions Readings: Course notes on infants Electronic reserve - Mondschein article, Volling article Answer questions#3 and 4 - Due Monday of Week 3
Week 3	Parent-Toddler Interactions Readings: Course notes on toddlers Electronic reserve - Caldera article, Poulin-Dubois article Answer questions 5 and 6 - Due Monday of Week 4
Week 4	Parent-Preschooler Interactions Readings: Course notes on preschoolers Electronic reserve - Vandermaas-Peeler article, Menna article Answer questions 7 and 8 - Due Monday of Week 5
Week 5	Parenting-School Age Children Interactions

	Readings: Course notes on school age children Electronic reserve - Chilcoat article, McDowell article Answer questions 9 and 10 - Due Monday of Week 6
Week 6	Work on Analysis of Parenting Paper - due Monday of Week 7
Week 7	Parent-Adolescent Interactions Readings: Course notes on adolescents Electronic reserve - Miller-Day article, Field article Answer questions 11 and 12 - Due Monday of Week 8
Week 8	Grandparenting Readings: Course notes on grandparenting Electronic reserve - Mueller article, Strom article Answer questions 13 and 14 - Due Monday of Week 9 Work on mid-term exam - Due Thursday of Week 9
Week 9	Gender Role Socialization Readings: Course notes on gender roles Electronic reserve - Witt article, Tenenbaum article Answer questions 15 and 16 - Due Monday of Week 10
Week 10	Spring Break
Week 11	Cultural Perspectives of Parenting Readings: Course notes on cultural diversity in parenting Electronic reserve - Stewart article, Bornstein article Answer questions 17 and 18 - Due Monday of Week 12
Week 12	Adolescent Parents and Widowed Parents Readings: Course notes on teen parenting and widowhood Electronic reserve - Porter article, Burgess article Answer questions 19 and 20 - Due Monday of Week 13
Week 13	Divorce Readings: Course notes on divorce Electronic reserve - Fox article, Furstenberg article Answer questions 21 and 22 - Due Monday of Week 14
Week 14	Stepparenting Readings: Course notes on stepparenting Electronic reserve - Kompara article, Braithwaite article Philosophy of Parenting Paper - Due Thursday of Week 14 Answer questions 23 and 24 - Due Monday of Week 15
Week 15	Public Policy and Social Supports Readings: Course notes on public policy Electronic reserve - Ozawa article, Hutchison article Answer questions 25 and 26 - Due Monday of Week 16
Week 16	Work on Final Exam
Week 17	Final Exam - Due Monday of Week 17

READINGS: There is no textbook for this course. Students are responsible for several reading and writing assignments. The professor's course notes are required reading and are accessible on the syllabus above for each week. Journal articles which students are required to read are available through Bierce Library's electronic reserve. Instructions for accessing electronic reserve materials are found in the Ground Rules above.

ASSIGNMENTS, POINTS AND DUE DATES

Assignments	Points	Due Date
Questions Based on Readings	26 @ 10 points each = 260 points	Each week
Analysis of Parenting in Literature Paper	75 points	Week 7
Midterm Exam	50 points	Week 9
Philosophy of Parenting Paper	100 points	Week 14
Final Exam	50 points	Week 17
Total Possible Points for Course	535 points	

GRADING SCALE

519-535	A	455-470	B-	407-422	C-	358-374	D-
503-518	A-	439-454	C+	391-406	D+	Below 358	F
487-502	B+	423-438	C	375-390	D		
471-486	B						

ASSIGNMENTS

1) Questions Based on Assigned Readings

For this assignment, students are to offer thoughtful, well-organized, cogent, well-written answers to the discussion questions that are based on each week's readings. Answers to **EACH** question should be 1-2 pages long, double-spaced, using no larger than a 12-point New Times Roman style font and no wider than one-inch margins. Appropriate grammar and spelling are expected. Answers should be typed and sent as email attachments to the professor by the dates indicated on the syllabus. For example, answers to questions for Week 1's readings are due Monday of Week 2, and so on. **The format for sending email attached documents must be either MSWord (.doc) or Rich Text format (.rtf).** Late papers will not be accepted unless there is a very compelling reason, which the student has discussed with the professor ahead of time, and late papers will receive a deduction in points. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, papers received on the Monday they are due will receive feedback from the professor by the end of that week. There are 26 questions, each worth 10 points, for a total of 260 points.

2) Analysis of Parenting in Literature

For this assignment, students are to choose and read a book from popular literature and analyze the parent-child relationship(s) found in it (keep in mind that these relationships may not be traditional biological parent-child relationships. Aunts, uncles, friends, mentors, etc. may serve in a parenting role). Your paper should include a brief summary of the plot of the book, with an explanation of the characters and their relationships with

one another. Within the narrative of your paper, you should offer at least three specific examples from the book to illustrate what you are writing about. Papers should include an in-depth explanation, analysis and evaluation of the parent-child relationships within the book. Be sure to address how the material from this course corresponds to what is found in the book (for example, you might write about how environmental influences impact characters and relationships in the book, or offer an explanation of how cultural traditions influence parenting behaviors in the book, or relate events in the book to family/child development theory). You may also want to compare the parent-child relationships or characters in the book to ones you are familiar with or that you yourself identify with.

Papers should be 10 pages long, double-spaced, with no more than one-inch margins, no larger than a 12-point New Times Roman style font. Proofread and edit carefully; appropriate grammar and spelling is expected, and points will be deducted if there are more than five errors. Before beginning this assignment, be sure to let me know the book and author you are planning to use so that it can be approved (this should be done by Week 3 of the semester). This assignment is worth 75 points and is due and should be emailed to the professor as an attachment by Monday of Week 7. Late papers will receive a deduction in points. Suggestions for appropriate books for this assignment are listed below. You are not limited to this list; titles are offered merely as suggestions.

To Kill a Mockingbird - Harper Lee	She's Come Undone - Wally Lamb
Roots - Alex Haley	The Shipping News - Annie Proulx
Angela's Ashes - Frank McCort	The Color Purple - Alice Walker
The Great Santini - Pat Conroy	My Family and Other Animals - Lawrence Durrell
The Godfather - Mario Puzo	Just Another Kid - Torey Hayden
The Mosquito Coast - Paul Theroux	Beloved - Toni Morrison
Empire Falls - Richard Russo	Secret Life of Bees - Sue Monk Kidd
Straight Man - Richard Russo	The Mermaid Chair - Sue Monk Kidd
Nobody's Fool - Richard Russo	At Risk - Alice Hoffman
One Child - Torey Hayden	Bee Season - Myla Goldberg

3) Philosophy of Parenting Paper

Throughout the weeks of this course, students have an opportunity to gain knowledge and insight into many aspects of parenting. For this assignment, students are to utilize that knowledge and any other child development or parenting knowledge they possess to develop a philosophy of parenting. When writing this paper about your philosophy, keep in mind your own value system and beliefs about raising children. Incorporate what you have learned in this class to explain your philosophy. Be sure that your philosophy is developmentally appropriate and is based on a sound theoretical foundation. Offer examples of situations that might come up when parenting children and explain how your philosophy would be applied in those situations. This paper should be 12-15 pages long, double-spaced, no wider than one-inch margins, no larger than 12-point, New Times Roman style font. Proofread carefully; appropriate grammar and spelling are expected,

and points will be deducted for more than 5 errors. This paper is worth 100 points and is due and should be emailed to the professor as an attachment by Thursday of Week 14.

4) Midterm Exam

The midterm exam consists of 5 essay questions based on the course notes and readings from Week 1 through Week 8. Each question on the midterm deserves an answer that is at least two pages long; exam should be typed and double-spaced. The midterm exam is worth 50 points and is due on Thursday of Week 9.

5) Final Exam

The final exam consists of 5 essay questions based on the course notes and readings from Week 9 through Week 16. Each question on the final exam deserves an answer that is at least two pages long; exam should be typed and double-spaced. The final exam is worth 50 points and is due on Monday of Week 17.

Course Evaluations: Once you've completed the course, please take time to fill out the online evaluation for this course at <http://www3.uakron.edu/witt/swittevals.htm>
