

Course Syllabus for PSCH 3306: Child Development

Professor: Dr. Culver
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Office: Uvalde A107
Office hours:
MW 12-3 p.m.

Contacting the Professor

The most effective way to contact the instructor is by email at tculver@sulross.edu. On weekdays, reply will be swift, usually within the day. To protect student privacy, send from your Sul Ross or Blackboard-registered email account.

Email etiquette requires that you sign your name in *every* email you send and specify the particular course or issue to which you are referring. Do not open your email by saying "Hey." Do not expect to get a response unless you extend this courtesy.

Contacting Technical Support

If you have a problem with technical issues such as downloading a file or taking an exam, contact an Office of Information Technology (OIT) staff for assistance or call the OIT Helpdesk. The Helpdesk is available seven days of the week.

- From on-campus, call 8765.
- From off-campus, call (888) 691-5071.

Required Texts

- *A Child's World (11th Edition)*. By D.E. Papalia, et al. (2006) ISBN: 978-0-07-353197-7.
- *APA manual, 6th ed.*

Good deals on textbooks are often found on the websites of Internet booksellers. Amazon.com and other major online vendors accept major credit cards, checks, and money orders.

Illegal copies of textbooks are not allowed at any time in class or the testing labs.

Program Student Learning Outcomes

The graduating student will demonstrate the capacity to:

1. Recognize the central concepts, theories, and empirical findings in the department's main areas of focus: abnormal psychology; social & personality psychology, and developmental psychology.
2. Recognize and apply basic psychological research methods, including: the experiment; the case study; the survey; and correlation.
3. Communicate effectively in written assignments and oral presentations.

4. Demonstrate insight into the behavior and psychological processes of oneself and others.

Learning Objectives

The objectives of this course are to:

- explore the major findings, theories and theorists who have contributed to the field of developmental psychology.
- understand especially well the contributions of Piaget, Freud, Kohlberg, Erikson, and Bandura.
- recognize the unique roles of various stages of childhood and adolescence in the developmental process.
- appreciate the ways that human development continues across the entire lifespan.

Assessment Mechanisms

Regular Exams

Each exam will span material from the chapter indicated on the evaluation schedule, as well as any additional lecture or supplementary print material. Exams will be either online through Blackboard, or in the classroom, at the professor's discretion. One exam grade will be dropped—this should be used if you have a bboard issue. Don't assume you will not and purposely skip a test. This could have a profound impact on your course grade. A limited amount of time will be allowed for test completion. Students will have 45 minutes to complete 30 questions. Each exam will open at 8 a.m. of the scheduled day and close at 11:55 p.m. that same day.

Penalties will be assessed for going overtime on Blackboard exams (the value of 1 item per minute or fraction of a minute). If you exceed your time limit by 5 minutes, you will receive an automatic 0 on your exam.

There will be NO resets on the bboard tests. This is why I am dropping one test grade.

Personal Analysis

Students will use pick three theories that have been discussed in class to evaluate their own development. Students will then put together a scrap book (in the form of a powerpoint presentation) with pictures, report cards, and other personal items that help illustrate their development. Within the pages of the scrapbook, students will label the stages of each the three theories and describe them according to the textbook. Then students need to include be a paragraph after each labeled stage that describes why and how each stage fits the pictures and their life at that time. Feel free to be as creative as you like. Some students add personal pictures and music.

The Final Exam

The final exam will cover all of the material in the course and will consist of multiple choice items. The final exam will begin promptly. The final exam will cover all material in the course.

The final exam is mandatory, and it must take precedence over all other affairs. Clear the entire period from your schedule. Please do not schedule doctors' appointments or other appointments of any kind that afternoon that might conflict with your final exam. If any such appointment has already been made, you should cancel it now if you wish to remain in this course.

Assessment

Grades for each assignment, and for the course itself, are calculated as follows:

A: 90% or above		
B: 80% - 89%	Exams:	100 x 4 (drop 1)
C: 70% - 79%	Final Exam:	100
D: 60% - 69%	Personal Analysis:	100
F: 0% - 59%		
	Total:	100 + 300 + 100 = 500

Policy on Assignments/Exams

In order to pass the course, ALL assignments and ALL exams must be completed.

Policy on Reading Assignments

It is imperative that each student read the assigned chapter before the lectures. You should complete these reading assignments according to the schedule.

Concerning Missed Exams and homework

No make-up exams should need to be given in this course. The instructor has found that the number of personal and family emergencies suffered by students inevitably skyrockets whenever they are accepted as legitimate excuses for missing exams and deadlines. It seems as if recognition of such emergencies leads to an increase in their frequency. Therefore the instructor will no longer accept them as legitimate excuses except under the most rigorously documented and verifiable circumstances.

A full excuse will be granted only when the instructor is notified of the situation on or before the day the student returns to class. If a full excuse is not granted, a partial excuse may be granted, so that a student will may be allowed to make up an exam, but with some number of points deducted. Car accidents and verifiable medical emergencies would result in a full excuse. Oversleeping and missing an exam due to a stressful work and school schedule might result in a partial excuse if the student otherwise had a strong record of participation in class.

A missed exam that is excused may be made up on the day of the final exam, after the final exam is taken. Make up exams will consist of a series of essay questions. The exams may be given orally if the professor chooses. Although the material covered on make-up exams is the same as what is covered on the regular

exams, students taking make-up exams often perform poorly and frequently find the experience frustrating.

What to do in order to obtain an excused make-up for a missed exam/homework:

1. Make every effort to notify the instructor ahead of time. Send a message to tculver@sulross.edu as soon as possible, and absolutely no later than the day you first return to class.
2. In the message, fully explain the nature of the emergency and why it prevented you from taking the exam.
3. Provide a source or sources that will allow the professor to verify your story.
4. Expect further questioning from the professor before an excuse is granted.

Final grades

All final course grades will be posted on Web for Students as soon as possible. Do not *call me, email me, or speak to me* about grades during the final exams period. Finals time is hectic for all, so please respect the privacy of all your professors during that period. Access to assignment grades and other course content will also be available on Blackboard.

Grades in this course are based on performance alone. They will not be rounded upwards. It is important for every student to understand that evaluation is not based ultimately on how hard someone has studied to get the grade desired, or whether someone needs this course to graduate. Nor are grades based on personal & family needs, or on personal conceptions about what seems to be fair. All grades, including your final course grade, will be based *solely* on your academic work in this course, according to the criteria described in this syllabus.

The times and dates when assignments are due and when evaluations are given will not be altered to fit your schedule. You will be expected to alter your schedule to fit class responsibilities. There are no exceptions to this policy.

Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Assignments Due</u>
7-7	Read Syllabus	
7-14	Exam 1 (Chapters 1 and 2)	
7-21	Exam 2 (Chapters 6, 7, and 8)	
7-28	Exam 3 (Chapters 9, 10, and 11)	
8-4	Exam 4 (Chapters 12, 13, and 14)	
8-9	Powerpoint Project	
8-11	Final Exam (all chapters)	

In the interest of a more thorough coverage of certain topics, the professor reserves the right to omit a chapter from coverage on any particular exam.

Academic Dishonesty and the Honor Code

Academic dishonesty and the penalties pertaining to it are described in the SRSU student handbook. In this course, all communication among students while taking exams is prohibited. Communicating material included on an exam with or in the presence of someone who has not yet taken that exam is also prohibited.

Unless specifically authorized, no student shall take an exam at any computer outside of the designated testing facility, and no student may print or copy any

material from any exam. Failure to follow these instructions will, at a minimum, result in a zero for the exam.

Students may not share books, notes, or any other form of communication during exams. Do NOT sit next to another student who is taking the same test in the lab. If no other seats are available in the lab, just wait! Do not sit by another student taking the exam.

Plagiarism, as every student should know, involves taking the work of others and claiming it as your own. It will not be tolerated. If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, excellent guidelines can be found online at www.turnitin.com.

Using an illegal copy of a textbook constitutes academic dishonesty. If a student is found to be using an illegally copied text during an open-book exam, the penalty will be failure of the exam. In addition, the student will have the choice of immediately surrendering the illegal copy to SRSU faculty/staff or receiving a failing grade for the course.

You and you alone are responsible for understanding and avoiding academic dishonesty in all your work. The penalty for serious academic dishonesty is severe: a student who turns in a plagiarized paper or cheats on an exam may receive an F for the entire course. A plagiarized paper will be given a failing grade on academic grounds alone, yet the student may face the additional disciplinary penalties for academic dishonesty.

As members of the academic community, no student should tolerate cheating. It is the responsibility of each and every student to report suspected cheating. The confidentiality and anonymity of students who report suspected cheating will be respected.

Intellectual Tolerance and Academic Freedom

Psychology is a field of inquiry that touches upon many controversial issues, including sexuality, evolution, gender, race, ethnicity, individual differences, parenting, divorce, crime and public policy, drug use, religion, and multicultural issues, among others. Professors and students often have strong opinions and make forceful arguments concerning these phenomena. It is often educationally productive to address and debate these matters in the context of classroom instruction and course assignments. Social taboos discouraging open discussion are inappropriate in this context and must be laid aside in the interest of intellectual inquiry.

Your grade will not be influenced in any way by expressing points of view that are in disagreement with the professor's. If time permits, students are encouraged to express their opinions and arguments whenever relevant to the subject material. The professor is free to do likewise.

Students who experience excessive anxiety or discomfort during the discussion of a sensitive topic (e.g., domestic abuse) should not hesitate to leave the classroom for a time if necessary and should never feel embarrassed for doing so. This can be an adaptive response to an emotionally difficult situation.

In contrast, other individuals are offended in principle by the mere exposure to concepts, opinions and arguments with which they disagree. The response of such persons is sometimes to try and close off discussion or to become hostile or vindictive toward others. Such persons are not encouraged to take psychology courses at Rio Grande College until they have resolved the personal issues preventing them from engaging in serious intellectual discourse.

Miscellaneous

All written assignments submitted electronically must be saved in one of the following formats: .doc, .docx, or .rtf. All major word processing programs allow at least one of these options. Written assignments submitted in other formats will not be considered submitted if another format is used; therefore, please contact the technical staff for assistance with this task if you need help.

In the computer labs when people are testing and in all courses taught by teleconference, it is absolutely essential that all students behave so as to minimize noise and disruption, including whispering. And please do not get up and leave the classroom during lecture to go get food or for other trivial reasons.