

DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY (DEP3053)

Section H576 (16063) Spring 2026

Welcome! *Developmental Psychology (DEP3053)* introduces students to the major theories and principles of life-span development from conception to death, including both theory and application. The course should provide insights into the interrelationships that exist among physical, cognitive, and socioemotional aspects of development. Special attention is given to the impact of culture and diversity on human development.

Instructor: Shani Kerr, Ph.D.

Email: s.kerr@ufl.edu

Course Format: Face-to-face, Weil Hall 0270

Meeting Times: MWF, 10:40 am – 11:30 am

Office Hours: Thursdays 2 pm-3pm online (email to schedule) Or by appointment

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/3549002203>

Meeting ID: 354 900 2203

Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTA): TBD

*Please allow 24 to 48 hrs. to respond to your emails during the weekdays. Emails sent on the weekend will be responded during the following weekdays. **Please include DEP3053** in the subject line for easy track of communication.*

Prerequisite Knowledge & Skills

Prerequisite Course: PSY2012 General Psychology

Required Textbook

Feldman, R. S. (2020). Life Span Development: A Topical Approach, 4th Edition: Pearson.

This course is participating in the UF ALL ACCESS program for the Spring 2026 semester. The ALL ACCESS program will allow you to gain access to the required materials for the course at a significantly discounted price. Please see UF All Access PDF on CANVAS for directions on how to opt-in and access your e-textbook. Contact your Bookstore on campus with any questions.

allaccess@bsd.ufl.edu

Please make sure you get the textbook as soon and early as possible since chapter quizzes start in the very first week. Power point files, and other resources are available on CANVAS as your resources, but you definitely need the textbook to guide and maximize your learning in this class.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

- Specify the scientific study of human development as a field of research and inquiry.
- Describe the basic issues surrounding the study of development.
- Explain physical development and health from the prenatal stage through late adulthood.
- Understand cognitive development including changes in perception, cognition, information processing, and language throughout the lifespan.
- Describe psychosocial development including changes in personality, social cognition, moral development, and social relationships throughout the lifespan.
- Explain the development of psychopathologies throughout the lifespan. ▪ Understand the process of death and dying.

Learning Outcomes

- Develop intra-personal and inter-personal skills through the process of subjective and objective study of self and other through self-evaluation, critical thinking, and by engaging in class discussions and personal projects.
- Increase awareness of psychological applications to everyday life, including cultural and cross-cultural diversity in family structures, processes and within the broader social and environmental context.
- Gain insight into some of the major social issues of our times concerning human rights, worth, and dignity at every age/stage of the life-span development.
- Demonstrate writing proficiency by providing written materials as part of the course and by acquiring a more professional vocabulary when discussing academic, social and personal issues.

Expectations

You are expected to attend class regularly and read the designated chapter before each class. You are also expected to check your email regularly (at least once a day) and to visit E-learning on a regular basis. Students typically find that for each hour in class, at least two additional hours are required for preparation.

Attendance

Attendance will not be taken. However, there are in-class activities that require your attendance in class. If you happen to miss class, it is your responsibility to learn the material covered and to find out about anything that is assigned that day. I highly recommend that you obtain notes from your classmates.

Class Demeanor

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Please avoid the use of cell phones and restrict eating to outside of the classroom. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be held at minimum, if at all.

Materials and Supplies Fees

There are no additional fees for this course.

Academic Honesty

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code”. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor of this class.

Students with Special Needs

If you are a student with a disability and would like to request disability-related accommodations, you are encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Center as early in the semester as possible. The Disability Resource Center is located in 001 Building 0020 (Reid Hall). Their phone number is 392-8565. If you have a documented disability, you must contact me immediately so accommodation can be made from that point on.

Sexual Harassment & Disclosures of Sexual Violence

Sexual Harassment is not tolerated in this class, in the Department of Psychology, or at the University of Florida. Sexual harassment includes: the inappropriate introduction of sexual activities or comments in a situation where sex would otherwise be irrelevant. Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination and a violation of state and federal laws as well as of the policies and regulations of the university. All UF employees and students must adhere to UF’s sexual harassment policy which can be found here: <https://policy.ufl.edu/regulation/1-006/>. Please review this policy and contact a university official if you have any questions about the policy.

As mandatory reporters, university employees (e.g., administrators, managers, supervisors, faculty, teaching assistants, staff) are required to report knowledge of sexual harassment to UF’s Title IX coordinator. Title IX violation includes sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking, domestic/intimate partner violence, etc. For assistance or to inform Title IX any incident(s) that may constitute a Title IX violation, please complete the Title IX Information Form here: <https://titleix.ufl.edu/report/> or email inform@titleix.ufl.edu, or call 352-2731094.

Course Technology and UF Policy on Software Use

All faculty, staff, and students at the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Course Incompletes:

A grade of Incomplete “I” will only be given in extreme circumstances (i.e., illness) and must be pre-approved by the instructor. If approved, a contract will be drawn up with the student specifying assignments and due dates. According to the University, all incomplete work must be completed by the following semester, or you will receive a punitive incomplete (i.e., the same as an “E”).

In-Class Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session. Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Policy for Disputing a Grade

You will have one week (including weekends and holidays) after any course material grade has been posted to dispute your grade. The exception will be the last exam because there won’t be enough time to complete disputes and turn grades in. Disputes will NOT be accepted after that date. If you want to dispute a grade you will need to write a paragraph explaining the dispute. For exams/questions write out the question on the quest and a paragraph explaining why your answer is correct with references to the material in the text for each question or writing assignment you are disputing. Then send a private email with this information to the instructor’s email address.

Honor Code

I am not willing to give a passing grade to those who do not abide by the UF honor code. Any student who cheats or helps another student cheat will receive an **F (Fail)** in this class. When students enroll at the university, they commit themselves to the standard drafted and enacted by students.

Preamble: In adopting this honor code, the students of the University of Florida recognize that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the university community. Students who enroll at the university commit to holding themselves and their peers to the high standard of honor required by the honor code. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the honor code is bound by honor to take corrective action. The quality of a University of Florida education is dependent upon community acceptance and enforcement of the honor code.

Honor Pledge: We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

It should be clear that academic dishonesty, such as cheating, is NOT tolerated at the University of Florida. Cheating is defined in the University Handbook, and it is the student's responsibility to be familiar with its many forms (including plagiarism). If there is a suspected academic honesty violation, the Student Honor Code Procedures will be followed.

Course Requirements

Developmental Log (35 points): You will be introduced to several focal topics in developmental psychology with a variety of information and resources. In this mini discussion assignment, you are expected to jot down your developmental logs with one original and one response posts due Fridays @ 11:59pm. **See specific instruction on CANVAS on the Home page; Developmental logs can be found on the "Discussions" tab on Canvas.**

Online Chapter Quiz (80 points): There will be 9 chapter quizzes during the semester. Quizzes are designed to assess your understanding of course material to date and to prepare you for the larger FINAL exam. Each quiz contains 10 multiple-choice **applied** questions with each question worth 1 point. The lowest 1 quiz grades will be dropped by the end of the semester; thus, only 8 quizzes will be included in your final grade. Quizzes are closed booked assessments, the textbook and or notes are not allowed. **Chapter Quizzes can be found on Canvas under the "Quizzes" tab.**

Exams (50 points): You will be given 50 minutes each exam for 25 items. Exams are non-cumulative, and will cover all material presented in the lectures, including textbook chapters, any external videos, and other supplemental readings covered in the lecture.

My Developmental Snapshots Project (100 points) due Apr. 26th @11:59pm on Canvas:

This is a writing assignment that hones your observation, critical thinking, and scholarly writing skills and sensitizes you to developmental topics as applied in reality. There are two basic elements of this project: 1) at list two snapshots or pictures of choice that exemplify or relate to

one or multiple developmental topic(s); 2) an APA-formatted report that elaborates about the snapshots with development-relevant reflections and critiques. Files need to be in .doc or .docx format and pictures should be inserted in the word files. See CANVAS for specific instructions for this assignment on the Home page.

SONA Research Requirement (15 points): There is a Psychology Department requirement that all students enrolled in DEP 3053 to participate in a research experience. The deadlines for this requirement will be posted on CANVAS. Completion of this requirement affects your course grade based on the amount of research credits you earn. DO NOT WAIT for until the last minute to complete this requirement. The longer you wait the harder it will be to get all the credits needed.

Late Work: Late work for developmental logs and quizzes are **NOT** accepted since you have been given sufficient periods of time to complete these assignments and dropping the lowest grade option for quizzes. However, if there is an **unforeseeable extreme situation** (e.g., hospitalization, severe accidents, etc.) that has kept you from completing work on time, you **may email Dr. Kerr with justification and proof within 24 hours of the original due date** for a **one-time make-up opportunity without penalty**.

For the developmental snapshots project, late submission should be done via email. Late submission within 24 hours of the original due date leads to 80% of the earned assignment grade. Work submitted between 24 and 48 hours of the original due date leads to 60% of the earned assignment grade.

Grading Scale

Mandatory Assignments	Points (Total 280)
Developmental Logs (7x5@each)	35
Online Quizzes (8x10@each)	80
Exams (2x25)	50
My Developmental Snapshot Project	100
Research Requirement	15

Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
Percentage	93-100	90-92.4	87-89.4	83-86.4	80-82.4	77-79.4	73-76.4	70-72.4	67-69.4	63-66.4	60-62.4	<60
GPA Equivalency	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.00	2.67	2.33	2.00	1.67	1.33	1.00	0.67	0.00

Note: Final total percentage points with a decimal value equal to or greater than .5 will be rounded to the next number. For further information about current UF grading policies for assigning grade points, please see

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

TENTATIVE SPRING 2026 TIMETABLE		
DATE	LECTURE TOPIC	READING
Jan. 12	Welcome to DEP 3053!	
Jan. 14	An Orientation to Lifespan Development	Chapter 1
Jan. 16	An Orientation to Lifespan Development	Chapter 1
JANUARY 19, MLK DAY, NO CLASS		
Jan. 21	Genetics, Prenatal Development, & Birth	Chapter 2
Jan. 23	Genetics, Prenatal Development, & Birth	Chapter 2
Jan. 26	Physical Growth and Aging Across the Lifespan	Chapter 3
Jan. 28	Physical Growth and Aging Across the Lifespan	Chapter 3
Jan. 30	Developmental log and Chapters 1 and 2 Quiz @ 11:59 pm on Canvas	
Feb. 2	Cognitive Growth: Piaget and Vygotsky	Chapter 5
Feb. 4	Cognitive Growth: Piaget and Vygotsky	Chapter 5
Feb. 6	Developmental log and Chapter 5 Quiz due @11:59 pm on Canvas	
Feb. 9	Language Development	Chapter 7
Feb. 11	Language Development	Chapter 7
Feb. 13	Developmental log and Chapter 7 Quiz due @11:59 pm on Canvas	
Feb. 16	Intelligence	Chapter 8
Feb. 18	Intelligence	Chapter 8
Feb. 20	Developmental log and Chapter 8 Quiz Due @ 11:59 pm on Canvas	
Feb. 23	Social and Emotional Development	Chapter 9
Feb. 25	Social and Emotional Development	Chapter 9
Feb. 27	Developmental log and Chapter 9 Quiz Due @ 11:59 pm	
Mar. 2	Development of Self	Chapter 10

Mar. 4	Development of Self	Chapter 10
Mar. 6	Developmental log and Chapter 10 Quiz Due @ 11:59 pm on Canvas	
Mar. 9	Moral Development and Aggression	Chapter 11
Mar. 11	Moral Development and Aggression	Chapter 11
Mar. 13	EXAM 1, IN-PERSON, Weil Hall 0270, 10:40 – 11:30 am	
MARCH 14 – 21, SPRING BREAK, NO CLASSES		
Mar. 23	Gender and Sexuality	Chapter 12
Mar. 25	Gender and Sexuality	Chapter 12
Mar. 27	Developmental log and Chapter 12 Quiz Due @ 11:59 pm on Canvas	
Mar. 30	Friends and Family	Chapter 13
Apr. 1	Friends and Family	Chapter 13
Apr. 3	Chapter 13 Quiz Due @ 11:59 pm on Canvas	
Apr. 6	Diversity, Schooling and Everyday Life and Leisure	Chapter 14
Apr. 8	Diversity, Schooling and Everyday Life and Leisure	Chapter 14
Apr. 10	Chapter 14 Quiz Due @ 11:59 pm on Canvas	
Apr. 13	Death and Dying	Chapter 15
Apr. 15	Death and Dying	Chapter 15
Apr. 17	EXAM 2, IN-PERSON, Weil Hall 0270, 10:40 – 11:30 am	
Apr. 20	Health and Wellness	Chapter 4
Apr. 22	Health and Wellness/ CATCH UP (if needed)	Chapter 4
Apr. 26	My Developmental Snapshots Project (100 points) @11:59pm on Canvas	

Note: Please read the chapter before the specific class meetings. Course schedule might change

as the needs occur. It is your responsibility to keep up with the change by coming to class and stay updated by checking Canvas. Also, it is not feasible to cover all of the materials in the textbook during the class meetings. Rather, I will focus on major and important themes in the chapters.

STUDY SKILLS

This class covers a large amount of material and it is crucial for students to keep up with the reading and study regularly. Make sure you 1) read the material when it is assigned, 2) read and study the text before and after hearing the lectures on those topics, and 3) study and test yourself in-depth on the days before each exam.

It is very important to read the chapter before it is covered in the lecture. This reading will provide you with some basic knowledge for each topic, to help you to understand the material more fully when you hear the lectures. A day or two after each lecture, read back over your notes to make sure that you understand everything you have written. Be certain, for example, that you can find a definition in your notes for each new term that was presented in class. Class attendance is not required. However, if you are having difficulty with the material, or if you are not performing as well as you want on quizzes, you should do the following: attend class EVERY TIME, pay close attention to the lecture, review the terms and alternative hypotheses sections in order to focus your reading, and use good note-taking skills.

Your text is well organized. Important terms are defined separately in the text. Always read the chapter summary and try to answer the questions in the text. Use the text headers to help you identify main ideas and take note of any definitions in the text. Compare these to the definitions received in class.

You can improve your knowledge and your test scores by reviewing all available learning materials and online resources provided for your text. If a term is not listed there, you do not need to know its meaning for the exam.

If a term is listed there, you should be prepared to answer any question about that concept from class or the book. In addition, I will post a copy of lecture slides on the website after the lectures are completed.

Everyone has a different preferred way of studying. Some students find that outlining the text or rewriting class notes is a good way to study. Others find that flash cards are a good study aid -- they put an important term on one side of the card and put its definition on the other side, maybe with an example (make up your own example if you can). You may benefit from rewriting ideas in your own words, or it may help you to study aloud, defining terms, and explaining theories to a "study buddy." Complete all of the "Complete Review Systems" available in your textbook before the exam.

Online Evaluation Process

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at

<https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Campus Resources

Health and Wellness

- UF Whole Gator Resources: Visit <https://one.ufl.edu/whole-gator/discover> for resources that are designed to help you thrive physically, mentally, and emotionally at UF.
- U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, [352-392-1575](tel:352-392-1575), or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- Counseling and Wellness Center: [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call [352-392-1575](tel:352-392-1575) for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- Student Health Care Center: Call [352-392-1161](tel:352-392-1161) for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).
- University Police Department: Visit [UF Police Department website](#) or call [352-392-1111](tel:352-392-1111) (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call [352-733-0111](tel:352-733-0111) or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the [UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).
- GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the [GatorWell website](#) or call [352-273-4450](tel:352-273-4450).

Academic Resources (also available at <https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>)

- E-learning technical support: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at [352-392-4357](tel:352-392-4357) or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- [Career Connections Center](#): Reitz Union Suite 1300, [352-392-1601](tel:352-392-1601). Career assistance and counseling services.
- [Library Support](#): Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. Call [866-281-6309](tel:866-281-6309) or email ask@ufl.libanswers.com for more information.
- [Academic Resources](#): 1317 Turlington Hall, Call [352-392-2010](tel:352-392-2010), or to make a private appointment: [352-392-6420](tel:352-392-6420). Email contact: teaching-center@ufl.edu. General study skills and tutoring.

Together, let's make it a fun and successful semester! ☺☺☺