This course introduces youth development principles utilizing an ecological framework, including major theories relevant to domains of development. Then, major physical, cognitive, social, and emotional changes experienced by youth in middle childhood through adolescence are explored. Application of youth development principles in context of family, school, and community are also emphasized.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

After completing this course, you will be able to:

• describe the major milestones and changes in physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development that occur in middle childhood and adolescence.
• identify major theories and research that help understand and explain youth development.
• apply major theories and research that help understand and explain youth development.
• assess common issues associated throughout this period of development with attention to the issues that hinder or foster healthy development.
• think critically about issues affecting youth development as they impact your life now and in your future role as a family member, citizen, and professional.

COURSE MATERIALS


CANVAS

All students are required to have a valid UF email account and must be able to access Canvas. You are responsible for regularly checking the FYC 3201 Canvas site for the course calendar, lecture notes, required readings, announcements, and other course resources and materials. You should contact the UF help desk if you experience technological issues with Canvas.

*Do not contact your instructor or TA without a ticket number from the help desk.*
TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

Learning is an active process that requires motivation, effort and tenacity. My teaching philosophy uses a learning-centered approach where students take an active role in their education that is complimented by experiential learning opportunities. I am dedicated to fostering an inclusive and collaborative learning environment that allows students to communicate openly, feel respected, and be intellectually challenged. I believe this approach enables students to demonstrate mastery of course content and develop transferable skills that can be applied beyond the classroom.

I value the unique experiences and perspectives that students bring into the classroom and getting to know students helps guide the delivery of course content to meet their needs. I have found that I learn the most when instructors take a genuine interest in mentoring students and use creative strategies to teach content that generates curiosity and develops higher-level thinking skills. As an instructor, my goal is to do the same for you so that you feel adequately prepared to accomplish your goals.

In my experience, students who come to class prepared, actively engage, and employ critical thinking skills have an enhanced learning experience which leads to success and creates meaningful impact.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the UF Disability Resource Center (352.392.8565) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodations. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Accommodations listed in a DRC letter are not retroactive. The provision of accommodations commences when the student presents the instructor the accommodation letter. Students must allow ample time for the instructor to review and discuss accommodations with the student prior to implementation. If the student requires additional time for examinations, the student must make arrangements with the DRC and notify the instructor at least one week prior to the examination.

If you are requesting accommodations with the DRC, please notify the instructor during the first week of class.

ONLINE COURSE EVALUATIONS

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/.

SOFTWARE USE

All faculty, staff, and students at the University of Florida 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. Disciplinary action will be taken when appropriate.
COURSE POLICIES

This is a highly interactive class that requires student engagement. To make the most out of it, attendance is mandatory, but not recorded and participation is a critical factor in your success. It is strongly recommended and encouraged that you read the assigned text before coming to class each day. This course will be useful for your future academic, personal, and career success.

Please: (1) be on time, (2) respect others’ points of view, (3) listen quietly when others are speaking, and (4) turn off cell phones, alarms, and other distractions.

COMMUNICATION POLICY

Keep in mind that email exchanges between students, faculty, TAs, and staff are a form of professional correspondence and permanent documentation between two (or more) people, and they are NOT confidential. Be sure your emails are polite, professional, and well prepared before hitting send.

Although most faculty try to answer emails promptly, please allow 2 business days before expecting a response. To maintain a work-life balance, we do not answer emails outside business hours.

GRADING POLICY

Your grade is a direct result of the effort you put into this course. Each assignment has been assigned a possible point value. You will earn points as you complete each assignment. These points accumulate to create your final score. Assignments will be graded on the quality and content of the writing. Be sure to spell check, grammar check, and proofread your work before submitting. Points will be deducted for not following instructions, poor grammar, spelling errors, and lack of appropriate etiquette. For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/.

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GRADE ADJUSTMENTS

It is unethical and in direct violation of the Honor Code to request an unjustifiable grade adjustment. Grades follow the above grading scale and are not rounded up. Grades will only be discussed face-to-face (not via email or phone) to protect student privacy. If a grade input error occurs, students are encouraged to notify the instructor as soon as possible. If examination of the e-learning platform determines an error occurred, the grade will be adjusted accordingly.

*Students have one week to review assignments, assessments or comments and contact the instructor with questions concerning their grade.*

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments are primarily submitted through Canvas. You are expected to complete all assignments by the specified due dates. Assignments that are submitted after the due date will receive a zero (0) grade. Late assignments will not be accepted unless arrangements are made in advance with the instructor.

The Canvas app is a great tool for checking your mail, announcements, and viewing your grades. It is not a great tool for submitting assignments. The uploading procedure is very unreliable. To protect yourself in the event of a technical glitch, I strongly advise that you do not use any mobile apps for submitting assignments. I will not accept late assignments should technical issues arise as a result of using mobile applications.

Please see university policy regarding university and medically-excused absences. In the event of an unforeseen emergency (death in the immediate family, sudden illness, etc.), please contact your instructor as soon as possible. Be proactive and forthcoming. Failure to communicate with your instructor may result in a zero (0) grade.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Any assignments that you submit must be original works authored by you as an individual in the course. Please be mindful that as a result of the registration process at the University of Florida, any enrolled student is committed to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge:

...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 of Florida 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 the honor to take corrective action...

On all work submitted for credit by the 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, project, quiz, exam]. Furthermore, no student may work or collaborate with another person on any academic activity in this course. Should group work be assigned or this class policy change, I will provide that in writing on the individual assignment instructions.*

It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration for disciplinary action. For more information, visit the Dean of Students website.
COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

You are required to complete 25 hours of service-learning this semester. You must find a community-based organization where you will be working directly with youth ages 6 to 18. There are no exceptions made regarding this age requirement. Get started quickly, as most agencies require a background check, which can take weeks to process. Your service-learning experience is a critical component of this course. You will apply the principles, theories, and concepts learned throughout the course with the observations gained at your service-learning site for multiple assignments throughout the semester.

PARTICIPATION (150 POINTS)

Students are expected to demonstrate their preparation for class and their understanding of course material through active participation in class daily. Participation points will be awarded via pop quizzes, reaction papers, class activities, discussion boards, etc. If you miss the class participation portion or fail to turn it in on time, you will receive a zero (0). There are no make-ups. There will be ample opportunities provided during the semester to obtain participation points.

EXAMS (300 POINTS)

Two (2) examinations will be administered during the semester. Exams are facilitated in-class and cover all material up to the exam date (i.e., not cumulative), including lecture content, videos, and required readings. The format of the exams may include multiple choice, matching, true/false, short answer, and fill in the blanks. Please show up on time and come prepared. Students who miss an exam will not be provided with an opportunity for make-up unless arrangements were made in advance.

- Exam 1 (150 points): Chapters 1, 2, 7, 11 & 14
- Exam 2 (150 points): Chapters 12, 15, 13, & 16

*Once exams have been administered, no other exams will be distributed. Thus, if you enter the classroom late, you will not be given the opportunity to take the exam. This means you must be present at the start of the exam.*

AFFIDAVIT OF GOOD MORAL CHARACTER (25 POINTS)

Affidavit of Good Moral Character must be notarized by a public notary. This service is available for free with your student ID at Student Legal Services in the Reitz Union. Visit their website for more information including what you need to bring with you [https://www.studentlegalservices.ufl.edu/](https://www.studentlegalservices.ufl.edu/). This form can be found on the course website and must be submitted on Canvas by the due date and before you begin your service learning.

*This form must have original, authentic (pen-to-paper) signatures; digital signatures will not be accepted.*

SERVICE-LEARNING INFORMATION FORM (25 POINTS)

All information on the Service-Learning Information Form should be typed, except for the original signatures by both the student and the site supervisor. This form can be found on the course website and must be submitted on Canvas by the due date and before you begin your service learning.

*This form must have original, authentic (pen-to-paper) signatures; digital signatures will not be accepted.*
PHASE 1-4 CASE STUDY (100 POINTS)

The first four phases of the case study paper are divided according to the modules covered in class:

- Phase 1: Attachment and Temperament (25 points)
- Phase 2: Physical Development (25 points)
- Phase 3: Cognitive Development (25 points)
- Phase 4: Social and Emotional Development (25 points)

You are responsible for following all objectives for this paper and for providing peer-reviews. You will apply the principles, theories, and concepts learned throughout the course with the observations gained at your service-learning site. APA styling and formatting is required. More information is available on Canvas.

PHASE 1-4 CASE STUDY PEER REVIEWS (100 POINTS)

In addition to submitting case study phases 1-4, students are responsible for completing a peer review for each phase. Students who do not submit a phase paper will not be provided an opportunity to complete a peer review. Rubrics and more information will be available on Canvas and in class.

PHASE 5 CASE STUDY FINAL PAPER (150 POINTS)

This paper is a culmination of the first four phases with all necessary edits and revisions. Add any observations that will help support previous sections. An abstract is required for the final paper. APA styling and formatting is required for all submissions. More information is available on Canvas.

*Points will be deducted at a rate of 10 points for each hour not completed and verified at your service-learning site.*

SERVICE-LEARNING JOURNAL (100 POINTS)

This journal is a way for you to describe and reflect on your overall service-learning experience and is graded based on answering the provided questions in a detailed and thoughtful manner. More information is available on Canvas.

*Students who fail to submit a valid service-learning time log and/or earn 25 hours will receive a zero on both the service-learning time log and journal.*

SERVICE-LEARNING TIME LOG (50 POINTS)

The Service Learning Time Log requires your site supervisor to verify completion of 25 hours. Your time log must have original, authentic (pen-to-paper) signatures; digital signatures will not be accepted. This form is located on the course website and must be submitted on Canvas.

*Students who fail to submit a valid service-learning time log and/or earn 25 hours will receive a zero on both the service-learning time log and journal.*
UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

The University of Florida takes great pride in providing a caring campus culture and has many support services available to help students succeed. Below you’ll find some of the programs and services that comprise our commitment to you on campus and beyond.

**Disability Resource Center** is available to students in need of support and/or accommodations for physical, learning, sensory, or psychological disabilities.

[https://drc.dso.ufl.edu/](https://drc.dso.ufl.edu/)
(352) 392-8565

**Counseling and Wellness Center** offers services and resources related to a variety of personal concerns, including but not limited to test-related stress, anxiety and depression, substance use, relationships, and sexual orientation and gender. All services are confidential. If a student is having a mental health emergency, they can and to speak to a crisis counselor.

[https://counseling.ufl.edu/](https://counseling.ufl.edu/)
(352) 392-1575

**GatorWell Health Promotion Services** is UF’s campus health promotion department. Services include: HIV testing, Quit Tobacco coaching, Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, Health Huts, and various other outreach/educational events.

[http://gatorwell.ufsa.ufl.edu/](http://gatorwell.ufsa.ufl.edu/)
(352) 273-4450

**UF Computing Help Desk** is available to help students with technical issues, including Canvas.

[http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/](http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/)
(352) 392-HELP

**U Matter, We Care** is an initiative committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if someone is in need. If someone you know is in distress, and it is not a crisis situation, please contact the U Matter, We Care Team so they can reach out to that person.

[http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/](http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/)
(352) 294-CARE

**Recreational Sports** offers experiences that enrich the lives of University of Florida students through excellence in facilities, fitness, sport, adventure and play.

[http://recsports.ufl.edu/](http://recsports.ufl.edu/)
(352) 846-1081

*The instructor reserves the right to change any aspect of this syllabus and to make appropriate updates. Changes to the syllabus, including the course calendar, will be communicated to students in a timely manner.*