The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Division of Social Science
SOSC2990 Developmental Psychology
Spring Semester, 2022

Lecturer	Teaching Assistant
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Lecture Time: Mon, Wed 9:00-10:20am
Venue: Rm 2465

Course Description
Developmental psychology is the scientific study of how we grow and change over the lifespan. This course will guide students to investigate physical, cognitive, and psychosocial development from infancy to late adulthood from a psychological perspective. Students should complete the course with a deeper understanding of key theories, research methods, and research findings on human development.

Prerequisite
SOSC1960 Discovering Mind and Behavior or SOSC1980 Psychology and Everyday Life

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)
Upon completion of this course, students are expected to:
1. apply existing knowledge in psychology to the field of human development;
2. gain fundamental knowledge about how humans develop over the lifespan;
3. learn about recent research relevant to developmental psychology;
4. understand the current issues, such as socio-cultural diversity, related to lifespan development.

Required Textbook
Boyd, D. & Bee, H. (2020). *Lifespan development* (8th edition). Boston, MA: Pearson.

Required Readings
R1.   Arnett, J. (2007). Emerging adulthood: What is it, and what is it good for? *Child Development Perspectives, 1*, 68-73.
R2.   Arnett, J. (2010). Family Relationships (pp.174-209). In *Adolescence and Emerging Adulthood*. Pearson: Prentice-Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ.
R3.   Charness, N., & Boot, W. R. (2009). Aging and information technology use: Potential and barriers. *Current Directions in Psychological Science, 18*, 253-258.
R4.   Cillessen, A. H. N., & Rose, A. J. (2005). Understanding popularity in the peer system. *Current Directions in Psychological Science, 14*, 102-105.
R5.   Karney, B. R., & Bradbury, T. N. (2005). Contextual influences on marriage: Implications for policy and intervention. *Current Directions in Psychological Science, 14*, 171-174.
R6.   Kurdek, L. A. (2005). What do we know about gay and lesbian couples? *Current Directions in Psychological Science, 14*, 251-254.

R7. Steinberg, L. (2007). Risk taking in adolescence. *Current Directions in Psychological Science, 16*, 55-59.

Assessment Scheme	Weighting	ILOs
Exams		
Midterm	20%	#1, #2, #3, #4
Final	20%	
Group Project		
Presentation	20%	
Take-home Kit	30%	#1, #2, #3, #4
Presentation Participation	10%	

1. Exams (20% + 20%, total 40%)

- Two exams will be administered to test your understanding of course materials. Exams are multiple-choice questions only and non-cumulative. Each exam counts for 20% and covers all materials in lectures and required readings (the relevant chapters will appear on the last page of the lecture handouts).
- Supplementary readings are also listed in the lecture note but they will NOT be included in the exams. These readings are useful for a deeper understanding in the course contents.
- Midterm exam is scheduled on **March 23** and covers topics from **Week 1 to 4**. Final exam is centralized and covers topics from **Week 5, 6, 8 to 10**.
- Arrive on time for the exams as no additional time will be given for students arriving late.
- No make-up exams will be given to students who are absent from the examination unless students can provide validated medical reasons. You should notify me (through email) about your absence by attaching your official medical certificate *within 24 hours of the original exam date* if you wish to arrange for a make-up exam. All make-up exams will ONLY be in the form of essay questions.

2. Group Project (60%)

- You are required to give a presentation **in a group of 5** for **20 minutes (including a 5-minute Q&A)** on a topic.
- Based on what you have learned in this course, you are expected to **develop a psychoeducation project on ONE developmental psychology concept/theory** (e.g., conservation task, egocentrism, object permanence, parenting styles, etc.). The purpose of this project is to promote developmental psychology by educating the public about theoretical concepts and apply what you have learned in lectures and textbook to real-life experiences.
- Groups will be formed during class time on Feb 21. You may find your groupmates in class and submit the group name list after class. For those who fail to form groups or absent on Feb 21, we will assign a group for you.
- Your project's topic will be assigned by drawing lots in Week 4.

Academic Integrity

You should observe the University's policies regarding academic integrity (https://registry.hkust.edu.hk/resource-library/regulations-student-conduct-and-academic-integrity). Academic dishonesty such as plagiarism and cheating would result in a reduction of scores or even a failing grade in the course. We will investigate every suspected case of plagiarism and report the confirmed case to Division of Social Science for further review or action. Make sure you understand academic honesty.

Course Communication Platform

All lecture materials and announcements will be posted on CANVAS. Be sure to check CANVAS frequently for any updated news.

Some Other Notes

- *Interaction in class* – I believe interactions (both verbal and non-verbal) between the lecturer and the students (and among students) are one of the key ingredients to an optimal learning experience. Your active participations in class discussion or activities will not only enhance your learning, but also motivate the teaching team to do better! Stay behind the class and share with me your thoughts about the course contents.
- *Lecture slides* – Lecture slides will be posted to CANVAS before each class, but the contents will be a bit different from the displayed slides as I hope to encourage you to take your own notes. Note-taking facilitates your reflection and assimilation of the lecture contents.
- *Penalties* – Score deduction applies to any assignments over the word limit. Detailed can be found in the assignment guidelines.
- *Late submission* – For any group assignment, the group leader will do the submission. Submissions received less than 5 hours after the deadline will not be penalized. No submissions will be accepted after 5pm HKT on the due date.
- *Communication* – Please expect that your emails will be responded to during weekdays 10am to 6pm HKT.
- *Your feedback* – Your opinions about the course are very valuable to help me improve the course. Feel free to drop by to talk to me. A course evaluation will also be held at the end of the course.

Teaching Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Required Readings
1	Feb 7	Introduction	Chapter 1, 2
	Feb 9	Theories of Development	
2	Feb 14	Prenatal Development	Chapter 3, 4
	Feb 16	Infant Competencies	
3	Feb 21	Early Cognitive Development	Chapter 5, 7
	Feb 23		
4	Feb 28	Emotional Development and Family	Chapter 6
	Mar 2		
5	Mar 7	Parenting Practices	Chapter 6
	Mar 9		
6	Mar 14	Early Psychosocial Development	Chapter 8, 10, 12
	Mar 16		
7	**Mar 21**	**Midterm Exam (covers from Week 1 to Week 4)**	
7	Mar 23	Puberty, Risk-taking Behavior and Deviance in Adolescence	Chapter 11, R2, R4, R7*
8	Mar 28		
	Mar 30	Development in Early and Middle Adulthood	Chapter 14, 15, 16, R1, R5, R6*
9	Apr 4		
	Apr 6	The Old Age	Chapter 17, 18, R3*
10	Apr 11		
	Apr 20	Death and Dying	Chapter 19
11	Apr 25		
	Apr 27	Group Presentations	
12	May 4		
13	May 11		
Exam Period		**Final Exam** (covers from **Week 5, 6, 8 to 10**)	

Important Dates

Date	Task
Feb 21	Submission of group list in class
Mar 21	Midterm exam
May 13	Take-home kit due
May 13	Peer evaluation
TBA	Final exam