

**NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY**  
**Psychology U404: Developmental Psychology**  
**Spring 2005**

**Meetings:** Monday, Wednesday, & Thursday 8:00-9:05am  
458 Richards

**Instructor:** Erick A. Medina  
434 Nightingale Hall  
(617) 373-7874  
[e.medina@neu.edu](mailto:e.medina@neu.edu)

**Office hours:** Mondays & Thursdays 9:15-10:15am  
and by appointment

**Course Description:** This course is an introduction to the organized study of human development throughout the life span. It surveys the fundamental principles, theories, key issues, and major controversies in contemporary developmental psychology.

The course is based on the assumption that learning is neither a passive nor unilateral process on the part of students but an active, dynamic encounter between students, instructors, and the material. To this end, students are encouraged to participate as fully as possible. Ideally this takes the form of asking questions or contributing to the class discussion; e-mailing questions and comments about the material to the instructor is also fine.

To ensure that a minimum of learning takes place, I have found it useful to assign four quizzes, a midterm, and a final examination. Quizzes are administered at the beginning of class, take a maximum of fifteen minutes, and consist of 20 multiple-choice questions. The midterm and final examinations each consist of 50 multiple-choice questions, and the final is cumulative.

Please note that there are no inappropriate questions and that all feedback on the course will be taken seriously, regardless of its implementation.

**Grading:** Attendance and participation, the quizzes, the midterm, and the final examination each count for 25% of the final grade. *There are no make-ups for quizzes.* Students may instead drop their lowest quiz grade.

There will also be *no make-ups for the midterm or the final*, except in case of serious illness, death in the family, or other documented, similarly extenuating emergency. Prior engagements (such as parties, weddings, and travel plans) and oversleeping are not considered emergencies.

**Requirements:** Regular attendance, thorough reading of required material prior to class discussion, and timely completion of assignments. Students are responsible for all material covered in class *and all information disseminated therein* regardless of attendance, and are also responsible for contacting the instructor regarding any missed classes or assignments.

I also ask that students turn off or silence all cell phones, pagers, and electronic signaling devices prior to class, and refrain from conversing with one another during the lecture.

**Text:** Berk, Laura E. (2004). *Development Throughout the Life Span*. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. Allyn & Bacon.

## Schedule of Classes

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
January 5 & 6	History, Theory, & Research Strategies	Chapter 1
January 10 & 12	Biological & Environmental Foundations	Chapter 2
January 13 & 19	Prenatal Development, Birth, & the Newborn	Chapter 3
January 17	<i>No Class: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i>	
January <b>20*</b> & 24	Physical Development in Infants & Toddlers	Chapter 4
January 26 & 27	Cognitive Development in Infants & Toddlers	Chapter 5
January 31 & February 2	Emotional & Social Development in Infants & Toddlers	Chapter 6
February <b>3*</b> & 7	Physical & Cognitive Development in Early Childhood	Chapter 7
February 9 & 10	Emotional & Social Development in Early Childhood	Chapter 8
February 14 & 16	Physical & Cognitive Development in Middle Childhood	Chapter 9
February 17	<b>Midterm Examination</b>	
February 21 & 23	Emotional & Social Development in Middle Childhood	Chapter 10
February 24	Physical & Cognitive Development in Adolescence	Chapter 11
February 28	<i>No Class: Spring Break</i>	
March 2	<i>No Class: Spring Break</i>	
March 3	<i>No Class: Spring Break</i>	
March 7	Physical & Cognitive Development in Adolescence	Chapter 11
March 9 & 10	Emotional & Social Development in Adolescence	Chapter 12
March <b>14*</b> & 16	Physical & Cognitive Development in Early Adulthood	Chapter 13
March 17 & 21	Emotional & Social Development in Early Adulthood	Chapter 14
March 23 & 24	Physical & Cognitive Development in Middle Adulthood	Chapter 15
March <b>28*</b> & 30	Emotional & Social Development in Middle Adulthood	Chapter 16
March 31 & April 4	Physical & Cognitive Development in Late Adulthood	Chapter 17
April 6 & 7	Emotional & Social Development in Late Adulthood	Chapter 18
April 11 & 13	Death, Dying & Bereavement	Chapter 19

\*A **quiz** will be given at the beginning of class covering all material up to the end of the preceding quiz.

*This schedule is tentative; any changes will be announced in class.*