

Welcome to Child Development: PSYC0202



Instructor: Dr. Janet Gebelt
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Email: jgebelt@westfield.ma.edu (once you are enrolled in the class, I expect you to email me via Plato)
Textbook: Santrock (2014) Child Development (14th edition).

Please note: this class officially begins on Wednesday, September 3rd. I will not be making any of the course material accessible to you before that date and I will not be responding to questions about assignments, course policies, etc before that date. The information below describes the course and briefly details what the assignments will be.

For WSU Psychology majors, this course satisfies the "Development" distribution requirement for the major.

AS DESCRIBED IN THE WSU BULLETIN:

PSYC 0202 CHILD DEVELOPMENT (3) The systematic study of the organismic and psychological changes in the child from birth up to adolescence, and of the importance of maturation, growth, and social learning in effecting these changes. Attention is focused on factors in personality, emotional, and cognitive development. Several lectures cover psychological theories of child development as based on available research data.

Prerequisite: PSYC 0101.

COURSE OVERVIEW:

The purpose of this course is to explore child development from a variety of psychological perspectives. We will discuss development from conception up to adolescence, exploring physical, cognitive, and socio-emotional development from both theoretical and empirical perspectives.

Course Objectives: By the end of the course you will

- Be familiar with historical and current theories of development
- Recognize major cognitive, physical, and social milestones of development during childhood
- Be exposed to and think critically about research on child development
- Apply your knowledge of child development to everyday life

METHODS OF ASSESSMENT:

All course requirements (e.g. Knowledge Sharing Opportunities and contributions to discussions) must be completed on time or the student will receive a 0 for that requirement.

- ***Knowledge Sharing Opportunities*** (Exams): There will be several of these!
- ***Attendance and Participation***: Online attendance and participation are expected and will factor into your grade

SYLLABUS FOR THE ACTUAL CLASS:

Please note: this is a brief course preview, not the course syllabus. A syllabus for the course will be made available when the course begins.

COMMUNICATING WITH THE PROFESSOR:

Once the class has begun, please email me via Plato, not my campus email. I will check my email every day Monday through Friday (unless it is a holiday). You can realistically expect me to reply to all emails within 48 business hours (it doesn't usually take that long). I am NOT available on evenings or weekends so please do not expect me to respond quickly to messages sent during those non-working hours. You are more than welcome to email me at 3am on a Saturday, but I will not be responding to you until Monday at the earliest.