

**KENNEBEC VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
FAIRFIELD, MAINE**

**Social Sciences Department  
Approval Date: 4/12/00  
Semester: Spring 2014**

**COURSE NUMBER:** PSY215  
**COURSE TITLE:** Developmental Psychology  
**PREREQUISITES:** PSY101 or permission of instructor  
**CO-REQUISITES:** None

**CREDIT HOURS:** 3  
**CLOCK HOURS:** 45

| <b>INSTRUCTOR</b> | <b>VOICE MAIL</b> | <b>OFFICE</b> | <b>E-MAIL ADDRESS</b> |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Alison America    | N/A               | N/A           | Bb Course Messages    |

**OFFICE HOURS:** By Appointment

**TEXTS & OTHER MATERIALS:**

Rathus, S.A. (2012). HDEV, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Cengage Learning.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is a survey of the biological, cognitive and socio-emotional aspects of human growth and development across the lifespan. Lifespan topics include an introduction to the lifespan perspective; biological changes; family, peer and social relations; cognition; and personality development.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Recognize and describe major cognitive, biological, and socio-emotional life changes.
2. Explain the interactive nature of biological and environmental factors.
3. Identify various historical and theoretical perspectives of human development.
4. Describe how scientific methodology can be implemented to study life-span perspectives.
5. Understand practical applications of theory and research in current situations.
6. Apply theory and research to the understanding and appreciation of oneself and others in a lifespan context.

**COURSE CONTENT:**

*Note: Within the online course in Blackboard you will find a highly detailed Course Navigator document with information on each specific assignment and due dates.*

- Introduction to the Course, Syllabus, and Expectations
- Lesson 1: The Developmental Perspective and Developmental Clocks
- Lesson 2: Developmental Theories
- Lesson 3: Research in Human Development: Biography as Research
- Lesson 4: Prenatal Development, Genetics, and Critical Periods
- Lesson 5: Multicultural Perspectives on Childbirth
- Lesson 6: Early Physical and Motor Development
- Lesson 7: Self-Awareness
- Lesson 8: Early Cognitive Development: Genetic Epistemology
- Lesson 9: Early Cognitive Development: Information Processing

- Lesson 10: Early Cognitive Development: Mind, Culture, and Language
- Lesson 11: Erikson: Developing Trust, Autonomy, and Initiative
- Lesson 12: Attachment
- Lesson 13: Gender Role Identity
- Lesson 14: Aptitude for School: Intelligence and Exceptionality
- Lesson 15: Erikson: Developing Industry
- Lesson 16: Family Systems Theory
- Lesson 17: Social Groups and Social Control: Family, Friends, and Media
- Lesson 18: Perspective Taking
- Lesson 19: Puberty
- Lesson 20: Concrete and Formal Operational Thinking/Information Processing
- Lesson 21: The Development of Moral Reasoning
- Lesson 22: Adolescence and Identity
- Lesson 23: Erikson: Developing Identity and Intimacy
- Lesson 24: The Myths and Realities of Storm and Stress
- Lesson 25: What is Adulthood?
- Lesson 26: Post Formal Operational Thinking
- Lesson 27: Possible Selves
- Lesson 28: Love, Intimacy, Puzzle Pieces
- Lesson 29: Divorce and Remarriage
- Lesson 30: Finding Occupation and Finding Vocation
- Lesson 31: Working in a Changing World
- Lesson 32: Learning to Relax
- Lesson 33: Midlife and the Midlife Event
- Lesson 34: Introduction to Marcia's Theory of Identity Status
- Lesson 35: Middle Age: Their Kids and Their Parents
- Lesson 36: Aging and Late Life Demographics
- Lesson 37: Late Life Cognition and Memory
- Lesson 38: Mental Health and Aging
- Lesson 39: Work, Friends, and Family in Late Life
- Lesson 40: Successful Aging
- Lesson 41: Death and Dying
- Lesson 42: Grieving Across the Lifespan
- Wrap Up, Course Evaluation and Final Discussions

## **COURSE ACTIVITIES:**

For each week in this class you will be assigned specific activities. These activities may include reading in the textbook, reading outside material, participation in discussions, quizzes on the text content, and reflection quizzes.

## **Lesson Plans**

The entire course is divided into “Lessons” that cover specific topics and learning objectives in the class. The Lessons are listed in the Course Outline above. Each Lesson introduces you to specific subject matter and asks you to engage in a number of activities. These may include reading, exploring the web, researching, participating in online discussions, quizzes (multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions), and assignments (written work submitted as an attached document in a “drop box”)

Each Lesson consists of:

- A Lesson Plan that outlines the content and provides detailed instructions as to any assignments
- Direct links to any Discussions, Assignments, or Quizzes that go along with that Lesson.

All the Lessons are located in the “Lessons” folder. Click on the Lessons link in the course Menu.

## Online Discussions

Online discussions form the backbone of an online class. It is very important for you to participate actively and fully in these discussions. These discussions will be graded and will be available for a specified amount of time (Monday morning until Sunday night on a given week in the course). You are required to participate in these discussions following the instructions that will be provided to you in the online Lessons.

Grading of the online discussions will be done in accordance to this grading rubric:

| Criteria   | Levels of Achievement                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|            | Non Performance                                                                                                  | Needs Improvement                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Meets Expectations                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Main Post  | <b>0 Points</b><br>No participation or main post does not address the prompt in the instructions                 | <b>20 Points</b><br>Main post is present but does not go into sufficient depth, is missing particular components, or simply repeats what others have already posted...when applicable, facts are not substantiated with a reference. | <b>40 Points</b><br>Main post adds substance to the discussion and meets all the requirements of the prompt in the instructions...when applicable, facts are substantiated with a reference. |
| Reply Post | <b>0 Points</b><br>No participation or response posts are surface and do not contribute to the discussion        | <b>20 Points</b><br>Does not meet the total requirement for the number of response postings                                                                                                                                          | <b>40 Points</b><br>Reply posts exist in the expected number and quality                                                                                                                     |
| Mechanics  | <b>0 Points</b><br>No participation or post is written with unacceptable spelling, grammar, and/or syntax errors | <b>10 Points</b><br>Errors in mechanics are minor, but are somewhat distracting from the message                                                                                                                                     | <b>20 Points</b><br>No substantial errors in spelling, grammar, and/or syntax                                                                                                                |

You are, of course, encouraged to post many times through the week. You are also encouraged to post EARLY in the week so that you can benefit from others’ responses to your post and so that others may benefit from your responses).

Please review the online document titled “Course Expectations and Policies”

## Lesson Quizzes

These quizzes will consist of questions related to activities I assign in the class, the content of the discussions, or information you gather from research or from your interview (see below).

Within each Lesson outlined you will be provided with a lists of ALL the questions in the specific quiz. You should prepare your answers ahead of time and then enter these answers into the appropriate online quiz.

Quizzes must be completed by the end of the week in which they are assigned. You may be able to work ahead on some of these quizzes as well.

*Extensions on the due dates for quizzes may be allowed with sufficient reason; however, I reserve the judgment to not grant an extension. If you anticipate needing extra time it is best to get in touch with me PRIOR to the due date.*

## Special Assignments

The following assignments are those that have been incorporated into this class to not only teach you course content, but to also enable you to demonstrate learning associated with the KVCC General Education Outcomes. (See the section on General Education Outcomes at the beginning of this syllabus)

- Biography
- Cultural Dimensions of Pregnancy Assignment
- Identity Status Assignment
- Reflections on the Biography Assignment

It is critical that you review the information I have provided for each of these assignments in the course website. While the assignments are not particularly complicated, they are certainly complex, requiring planning and time management to complete them by their due dates.

## GRADING:

Grading for the course will be accomplished in the following manner:

|                                               |     |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Online Discussions                         | 25% |
| 2. Lesson Quizzes                             | 25% |
| 3. Special Assignments                        | 25% |
| ✓ Cultural Dimensions of Pregnancy Assignment |     |
| ✓ Identity Status Assignment                  |     |
| ✓ Reflections on the Biography Assignment     |     |
| 4. Biography                                  | 25% |

## GRADING SCALE:

Letter Grades---Based on a final grade scale of 0-100, the following letter grades will be assigned:

|          |    |
|----------|----|
| 95-100   | A  |
| 90-94    | A- |
| 87-89    | B+ |
| 83-86    | B  |
| 80-82    | B- |
| 77-79    | C+ |
| 73-76    | C  |
| Below 73 | F  |

Please note that I will not be giving grades below a C. The rationale to this is that students who do not master more than 72% of the material in this class are not prepared to meet the expectations of future classes or programs that require this course. It simply means that you have not learned enough material to really say that you have “passed” the class.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Please review the online document titled “Course Expectations and Policies”

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

In addition to the regular course outcomes, this course engages students to demonstrate their competence in a number of areas related to General Education Learning Outcomes. Specific assignments in the class are designed to not only teach about the course topics, but to demonstrate this general learning.

The following is an outline of these outcomes and their corresponding assignments:

- Students will demonstrate proficiency in integrative learning
  - *Assessment: Identity Status Assignment*
- Students will demonstrate proficiency in intercultural knowledge
  - *Assessment: Cultural Dimensions of Pregnancy Assignment*
- Students will demonstrate proficiency in lifelong learning
  - *Assessment: Reflections on the Biography Assignment*
- Students will demonstrate proficiency in written communication
  - *Assessment: Biography*

### **OTHER INFORMATION:**

Please review the online document titled “Course Expectations and Policies”

### **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES (2011)**

In accordance with state and federal law, this College is committed to assisting qualified students with disabilities achieve their educational goals.

#### ***If you are in need of an accommodation in this course:***

- Students must contact the Dean of Students, Enrollment Services Center, Frye Building, 453-5019, [knormandin@kvcc.me.edu](mailto:knormandin@kvcc.me.edu)
- Students must provide current, appropriate documentation of their disability.
- Students must make a timely request for accommodation to the Dean of Students.
- Accommodations will not be provided until the faculty member receives a request form for accommodations. This form is created with the Dean of Students and is supported by the documentation of said disability.
- Requests for accommodation must be renewed each semester for each course.

This document is available in enlarged print and on audio tape. Please contact the Dean of Students at 453-5019 or [knormandin@kvcc.me.edu](mailto:knormandin@kvcc.me.edu)

### **NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION (2013):**

Kennebec Valley Community College does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services or activities. Students requesting classroom accommodation should be forwarded to Director of the Marden Center, 130 King Hall, phone: 453-5084 or Dean of Students, Enrollment Service Center, Frye Building, 453-5019.

Complaints about College decisions related to disability accommodations or discrimination must be forwarded to Affirmative Action Officer and ADA Compliance Officer, KVCC Annex Building, 50 Eskelund Drive, Fairfield, ME 04937, phone: 453-5000.