CHILD DEVELOPMENT

PSYCH 210 (Spring 2026)
Section 04; CLS 21185
Course Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Michael Skibo
Email: ms14568@hunter.cuny.edu

Time: Sat., 11:30am –2:15pm
Location: West Bldg., 619

Office Hours: Office hours will be by appointment only. Please e-mail Prof. Skibo for an appointment. If our appointment takes place via Zoom, use the link below.

Zoom Link: (for Office Hours) https://us02web.zoom.us/my/mskibo

Course Description:
Emotional, social, motor and cognitive development as influenced by genetic, cultural and individual factors during the first twelve years of life. (May not be taken for credit by students who have a collateral major, or a minor, in education.)

Student Learning Objectives:
Students will:

1) Gain understanding of child development from conception to middle childhood
2) Understand topics such as children's cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development.
3) Acquire knowledge of developmental theory and research and its current application in the field.
4) Become familiar with major topics in child development and recent empirical literature.

Course Prerequisite: PSYCH 100 – Introduction to Psychology

Optional Textbook:
The textbook is NOT required. You will receive all the information you need to pass the class from our lectures. However, the textbook may be helpful for looking up information that you don't understand, or for reinforcing what we learn in class.

Levine, L. E., & Munsch, J. (2021). ***Child Development: An Active Learning Approach*** (4th ed.)**.** Sage Publications: Thousand Oaks, CA

Course Materials:

Textbook Readings: Textbook readings are recommended but not required. In other words, you will not be tested on information that is in the textbook but not discussed in class. However, your textbook is a good reference source when it comes to studying for exams, completing your Application Activities, or looking up information that you didn't understand in class (or missed due to being absent).

In-class Lectures: Prof. Skibo will post his PowerPoint slides for each lecture ahead of time, so that you may have them to reference during class and for your studying. These slides can be found in the "Lecture PowerPoints" tab in Brightspace. When taking notes in class, please DO NOT just write down what you see on the PowerPoint slides and nothing else. That is why I provide you with the PowerPoints ahead of time – so you don't need to copy them down. Instead, pay attention to and take notes on what I'm saying.

Study Guides: Students will be provided with a study guide for every chapter. This study guide will describe exactly what you are expected to know for the exam on that chapter. All of the information that appears on the study guides may appear on the exam, but nothing that is not on the study guide will appear on any exams.

Course Assignments:

Practice Quizzes: There is a "Practice Quiz" for each chapter/lesson in Brightspace under the "Practice Quizzes" tab. Each Practice Quiz should be completed by the due date listed in the "Course Schedule" (see below). These quizzes are designed to let you know which areas of the chapter/material you know well, and which areas you need to may need to study more before the Unit Exam. You may take each Practice Quiz as many times as you'd like (until you get all of the answers correct). If you do not get all the answers correct the first time, After you take the quiz, you can check your answers in the "My Grades" tab on Brightspace (click on the name of the assignment on first page – e.g., "Chapter 1 Practice Quiz" - & then click on the number of points you received on the second page). If you've selected an incorrect answer for one or more questions, please look back through your textbook and re-take the quiz until you get all of the questions correct - you will be able to take the quiz as many times as you need to get all questions correct. After the due date for each quiz, the answers will appear in Brightspace. Each practice quiz is worth **2.5 points,** for a total of **30 points** toward your grade. Please note that Practice Quizzes that are completed after the due date will only receive 80% credit.

Application Activities

You will complete 3 "Application Activities" over the course of the semester. You can find them by clicking on the "Application Activities" box on our Brightspace page, as well as by navigating to the "Course Content" folder for the week that they are due. For each assignment, please complete the activity/answer the questions listed on the activity page using specific concepts we learned from the chapter to provide evidence for your answers. Application Activities are worth **10 points** each (for a total of **40 points**). Late assignments will be accepted up to a week after the due date for 80% credit. Please be sure to follow ALL directions listed in the "Application Activities" folder in Brightspace, as well as the directions on the assignment prompt itself. Failure to follow these directions will result in a reduction of the points you receive for the assignment.

**Important Note*: There are additional directions that you have to follow for the Chapter 2 & Chapter 13 Application Activities. Please see the "Application Activities folder in Brightspace for these directions.

Unit Exams: There will be a total of 3 unit exams, worth **50 points each**, for a total of 150 points toward your final grade. For each exam, you will only be tested on material covered (in lecture or in the book) since the previous exam. Unit Exams will take place during class time, and will consist of some combination of multiple-choice and true-or-false questions

Final Exam: On Saturday, 5/16 during our normal class time, we will have a cumulative final exam worth **50 points** total; This exam will include material from Day 1 of class until the end of class. It will consist of some combination of multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and true-or-false questions.

Exam Notes:

- ***A Note About Missing an Exam*** - Make up-exams may be given, at my discretion, but only in extreme emergencies (involving one of the following: (1) hospitalization of yourself or an immediate family member, (2) a death of a family member/close friend, (3) a severe accident involving a family member or close friend, or (4) a contagious illness such as cold, flu, or Covid-19. In these cases, it is your responsibility to contact me within **1 week** of the missed exam in order to schedule a potential make-up, and provide me with documentation as proof of your emergency. However, please note that make-up exams **will not** be given for an unexcused absence under ANY circumstance – unless there is an extreme emergency, I cannot accommodate a make-up exam, so please DO NOT ASK. Additionally, it is important to note:
    - Make-up exams may not be the same as the original exam (the questions may be different).

- If you are granted a make-up exam, it will take place at the testing center in the North Building, Room 150
  - Once I grant you a make-up exam, the testing center will send you an e-mail with potential appointment times to make up the exam. Please make your appointment directly with them. After your appointment, they will send me your finished exam.

- ***How to study for exams*** – There are multiple ways to study for each exam:
  - Review the study guides posted in Brightspace. These will let you know exactly what topics to study for the exam.
  - Review the PowerPoint presentations from class, focusing especially on **BOLDED** words, major theories, important studies, and prominent examples of concepts.
    - Make sure you take notes on these topics during class as well and review those notes for the exam. The exam will teston what I say about these topics during class, NOT what is written on the PowerPoint slides.
  - Review the textbook chapters. Focus mostly on understanding **BOLDED** words, major theories, important studies, and prominent examples of concepts.
  - Review the questions and answers from the practice quizzes. The questions on the exam will cover very similar topics.

Course Grading

- Each exam/quiz/assignment has a different amount of points you can earn (see grading weights below). You can receive up to 240 points. To calculate your grade at the end of the semester, I will just divide the sum of all your points you received by 240.
- You can always check your grades on assignments, as well as your overall grade in the course, by selecting "*Grades*" from the menu at the top of our Brightspace page.
- To request a Pass/No-Credit contact Registrar's office. (https://hunter.cuny.edu/students/registration/register-for-classes/credit-no-credit/). Students with a Major or Minor in Psychology cannot take courses for Pass/No-Credit. Please talk to your psychology advisors for more info (schedule an advising appointment via Navigate at: https://hunter.cuny.edu/navigate/advisors/)

Grading Weights

Practice Quizzes.....	30 Points
Application Activities.....	40 Points
Unit Exams.....	150 Points
Final Exam.....	50 Points
Total.....	**270 Points**

Grading Scheme

97.5 – 100%	.....	**A+**
92.5 – 97.4%	.....	**A**
90 – 92.4%	.....	**A-**
87.5 – 89.9%	.....	**B+**
82.5 – 87.4%	.....	**B**
80 – 82.4%	.....	**B-**
77.5 – 79.9%	.....	**C+**
70 – 77.4%	.....	**C**
60 – 69.9%	.....	**D**
≤ 59.9%	.....	**F**

Questions about Grading:
You are welcome to contact me if you have questions/concerns about grading on your exams or assignments. However, if you wish to dispute any grades, you must make your request via e-mail with documentation. That means you need to provide evidence from the text and/or lectures (with page or slide #s, quotes, etc.) to back up your point-of-view. In addition, I reserve the right to re-grade your entire exam/assignment. *These requests must be made within 1 week of when the grade for that quiz/assignment is released.*

My Course Policies

Communication Policy: All my communications with you outside of class and office hours will be through Brightspace and your Hunter College e-mail. Therefore, it is important that you check our Brightspace shell and your Hunter e-mail on a regular basis to receive important class announcements.

As far as how you can contact me - if you have any questions on class-related, please feel free to e-mail me at ms14568@hunter.cuny.edu. This is the only way to contact me outside of class – **I DO NOT CHECK OR RESPOND TO MESSAGES SENT TO ME THROUGH BRIGHTSPACE**. Also, please allow me at least 48 hours to respond to your e-mail. Also, please note that I do not usually check my e-mail after 5pm or on weekends, but I will do my best to get back to you by the next workday morning.

Additionally, **before contacting me with a question, please check THIS SYLLABUS** to make sure your question is not already answered somewhere. I do put a lot of work into our course syllabus and your Brightspace course shell so that you have all the information that you need, and it is disrespectful to me when students ignore that work and ask me to do more work for them unnecessarily. However, after thoroughly checking Brightspace and the Course Syllabus, if your question is still unanswered, please feel free to e-mail me.

Extra Credit Policy: There are plenty of opportunities to get a good grade in this class the way it is currently structured. Therefore, **I DO NOT GIVE EXTRA CREDIT**, so **PLEASE DO NOT ASK FOR EXTRA CREDIT**. Any requests for extra credit will be ignored.

Artificial Intelligence: Generative AI tools, like ChatGPT, are not permitted in this course. Students must rely on their own originality, creativity and critical thinking skills to complete assignments and engage with course material. As such, student writing may be run through AI detectors, and assignments that are determined to be AI-generated will receive a **ZERO**.

Attendance Policy: Attendance is NOT a part of your grade in my class. Therefore, missing class and/or coming late to class will **NOT** result in a point deduction from your grade. However, I do warn you that students who regularly miss class tend not to do as well on their exams.

If you will be absent or late to class, please **DO NOT** e-mail or message me telling me that you will be absent or late (unless you'll be missing an exam because of an emergency). I know some professors ask you to do this, but not me!

If you are absent from class, you are still responsible for any material covered in class, and you must turn in any work that is due for that class before class begins (unless you contact me BEFORE the absence, and I allow an extension). However, if there are extenuating circumstances (e.g. medical emergencies, deaths in your family), you may be excused from class work (e.g., homework assignments) without penalty **provided that you notify me within a week of the absence with proper documentation**.

Also, if you are absent from class, please do not ask me what you missed during class – you can figure this out by yourself. To catch up on what you missed while you were absent you can:

1. Ask one of your classmates what you missed and/or if you can borrow their notes to copy them.

2. Look at the PowerPoint slides I post online. Find the last slide we covered before you were absent and the first slide we start when you get back. Everything in-between is what you missed.
3. Read your textbook. It is especially helpful if you focus on the material from the PowerPoint slides that you missed.

Academic Support: If at any point during this course you are having difficulty with some aspect of the course, please contact me AS SOON AS POSSIBLE to let me know. Once you let me know, I am happy to help you in any way I can, but it is important that you contact me as soon as you are having problems, otherwise it might be too late to get you back on track.

Class Cancelations: Please refer to the college's website/Facebook account/Twitter account for information on closings/delayed openings. If the college is closed, or the delayed opening occurs after our class time, then class will be canceled. If I am arriving late to class or need to cancel class for sickness or personal reasons, I will try my best to let you know as soon as possible. This will come in the form of an e-mail and/or Brightspace message. However, in the event I have not arrived in class 15 minutes AFTER the scheduled start time, you may assume our class is canceled and leave for the day.

Hunter Policies

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism:
Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures.

Please familiarize yourself with the college's full policies concerning academic honesty as outlined here: https://hunter.cuny.edu/students/student-affairs/office-of-student-conduct/policies-and-forms/. As a Hunter employee, I am obligated to uphold all of these policies and institute penalties when appropriate. This usually involves a "0" on the test/assignment in question and a report submitted to the Office of Student Conduct, but can also result in failure of this course. Please note – ignorance of this policy is not an excuse for violating it.

Sexual Misconduct:
In compliance with the CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Hunter College reaffirms the prohibition of any sexual misconduct, which includes sexual violence, sexual harassment, and gender-based harassment retaliation against students, employees, or visitors, as well as certain intimate relationships. Students who have experienced any form of sexual violence on or off campus (including CUNY-sponsored trips and events) are entitled to the rights outlined in the Bill of Rights for Hunter College.

- Sexual Violence: Students are strongly encouraged to immediately report the incident by calling 911, contacting NYPD Special Victims Division Hotline (646-610-7272) or their local police precinct, or contacting the College's Public Safety Office (212-772-4444).
- All Other Forms of Sexual Misconduct: Students are also encouraged to contact the College's Title IX Campus Coordinator, Dean John Rose (jtrose@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-650-3262) or Colleen Barry (colleen.barry@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-772-4534) and seek complimentary services through the Counseling and Wellness Services Office, Hunter East 1123.

CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/diversityandcompliance/repository/files/cuny-policy-on-sexual-misconduct.pdf

Copyright Statement:
ALL materials in this course—unless otherwise indicated—are protected by United States copyright law [Title 17, U.S. Code]. Materials are presented in an educational context for personal use and study and should not be shared, distributed, or sold in print—or digitally—outside the course without permission.

Academic Accommodations:
In compliance with the American Disability Act of 1990 (ADA) and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational parity and accommodations for all students with documented disabilities and/or medical conditions. It is recommended that all students with documented disabilities (Emotional, Medical, Physical and/ or Learning) consult the Office of AccessABILITY located in Room E1124 to secure necessary academic accommodations. For further information and assistance please call (212- 772- 4857)/TTY (212- 650- 3230).

Course Schedule – Child Development

Below is a list of your topics, readings, and assignments for the semester. Individual readings, assignments, and due dates are subject to change at my discretion. Unless otherwise noted, all assignments are due **before 11:59pm** on the day they are listed. I will announce any changes in class, send out an e-mail notifying everyone, or both. In most cases, you may complete the textbook reading either BEFORE or AFTER the lecture on that topic. I will notify you of any exceptions to this rule in advance.

Date	Chapter - Topic	Assignments DUE
1/31	Review of Syllabus	
	Chapter 1 – **Intro to Development**	
	Chapter 2 - **Theories of Development**	
2/7	Chapter 2 - **Theories of Development**	• Chapter 1 Quiz
	Chapter 4 **– Nature & Nurture**	
2/14	Chapter 5 – **Prenatal & Newborn Development**	• Chapter 2 Quiz • Chapter 2 Application Activity
2/21	Chapter 5 – **Prenatal & Newborn Development**	• Chapter 4 Quiz
	Chapter 6 – **Physical Development**	
Wed., 3/4	**NO CLASS**	• Chapter 5 Quiz
2/28	**EXAM 1 – Chapters 1, 2, 4, & 5**	
3/7	Chapter 7 - **Cognitive Development**	• Chapter 6 Quiz
3/14	Chapter 8 - **Intelligence & Achievement**	• Chapter 7 Quiz • Chapter 7 Application Activity
3/21	Chapter 9 - **Language Development**	• Chapter 8 Quiz
Wed., 3/4	**NO CLASS**	• Chapter 9 Quiz
3/28	**EXAM 2 – Chapters 6 - 9**	
4/4	**Spring Break – NO CLASS**	
4/11	Chapter 10 - **Emotional Development**	
4/18	Chapter 11 - **Identity & Moral Development**	• Chapter 10 Quiz • Chapter 10 Application Activity
4/25	Chapter 13 - **Development in the Family**	• Chapter 11 Quiz
5/2	Chapter 12 - **Social Development**	• Chapter 13 Quiz • Chapter 13 Application Activity

Wed., 5/6	**NO CLASS**	• Chapter 12 Quiz
5/9	**EXAM – Chapters 10 - 13**	
5/16	**FINAL EXAM – (All Chapters)**	

***Our lecture schedule, individual readings, assignments, and due dates are subject to change at my discretion. I will announce any changes via an Brightspace Announcement & an e-mail to your Hunter email account.**