

WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES
BASIC COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE TITLE: Child Development

COURSE NUMBER: PSY 336

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides a comprehensive study of human development from the prenatal period through middle childhood. Students will examine various areas of a child, including physical, cognitive, and social-emotional development. Major development theorists are reviewed. The interrelationship of heredity and environmental factors that influence change are considered, as well as the various influences on child development, such as culture and trauma.

II. MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS:

GOAL A:

Students will demonstrate an understanding of the history of the field of child development and the theories and research strategies used in the field of child development.

Learning Outcome: Students will be able to:

- A-1 Describe the field of child development, including the domains and periods of development, and the historical foundation of the field.
- A-2 Explain the major theories and theoretical perspectives used in child development.
- A-3 Explain the basic issues in the field of child development, including: continuous vs. discontinuous, nature and nurture, and the role of context.
- A-4 Describe research methods and designs used to study infants and children.
- A-5 Apply theories and concepts to real world scenarios.

GOAL B:

Students will demonstrate an understanding of significant milestones of development during each stage from conception through childhood.

Learning Outcomes: Learners will be able to:

- B-1 Identify and describe physical changes from conception through childhood.
- B-2 Identify and describe cognitive changes from conception through childhood.
- B-3 Identify and describe social and emotional changes from conception through childhood.

GOAL C:

Students will demonstrate an understanding of factors that influence development including both hereditary/biological and environmental factors.

Learning Outcomes: The student will be able to:

- C-1 Describe the influence of human relationships on development.
- C-2 Identify environmental influences on development.
- C-3 Describe the role of attachment in development.
- C-4 Identify biological/genetic factors that influence development and explain their relative importance in development of various domains (such as cognitive, physical, etc.).

GOAL D:

Students will be aware of current issues related to development.

Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to:

- D-1 Describe changes in family composition and structures that affect development.
- D-2 Explain how changes in the community such as day care and work patterns affect development.
- D-3 Identify modern day cultural values and norms that impact development.

GOAL E:

The student will understand the role that psychological trauma plays in child development.

