

Human Development  
Gabriela A. Martorell  
Spring 2010

Contact Information:

Email: [martorel@pdx.edu](mailto:martorel@pdx.edu)

Please contact me at this email address rather than through Blackboard.

Office Hours:

My office hours are Wednesdays from 10-11 a.m. and Thursdays from 2-3p.m. in 317R Cramer Hall.

Teaching Assistant

You have two teaching assistants. Shawn Mehess ([mehess@pdx.edu](mailto:mehess@pdx.edu)) will be holding his office hours in Cramer Hall 367 from 10-12 on Fridays. Jen Pitzer ([jpitzer@pdx.edu](mailto:jpitzer@pdx.edu)) will be holding her office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-10 also in 367 Cramer Hall.

Text:

Your text is Sigelman & Rider's Lifespan Human Development, customized for Portland State University. It's a softcover book and it's available at the bookstore only. You can buy either the customized version or the regular, hardcover 6<sup>th</sup> edition - both are fine.

Listserve:

The PsychWeb mailing list is a general mailing list for all undergraduate students interested in Psychology at Portland State University. Any student interested in psychology may subscribe to this list. Subscribers should expect a relatively moderate amount of mail on topics related to the field of psychology and the Department of Psychology at Portland State University. Please sign up for it at <http://www.psy.pdx.edu/undergraduate/psychwebmail.htm>

Course Readings and Assignments:

Please note ALL assignments, discussions, posts, and papers must be submitted by the end of class (11:50 a.m.) on the day they are due.

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignments
3/30	Introduction to course Understanding Life Span Development	Chapter 1	
4/1	Understanding Development, cont.		
4/6	Themes and Theories	Chapter 2	Goals due
4/8	Themes and Theories, cont. Genes and Environment	Chapter 3	Short Paper #1
4/13	Genes and Environment, cont. Prenatal Development and Birth	Chapter 4	
4/15	Prenatal Development and Birth, cont.		
4/20	Memory and Information Processing	Chapter 8	Guest lecture: James Stafford
4/22	Memory and Information Processing, cont.		Guest lecture: James Stafford Discussion post #1
4/27	Perception	Chapter 6	
4/29	Perception, cont. Cognition	Chapter 7	
5/4	Cognition, cont.		
5/6	Intelligence	Chapter 9	Discussion post #2
5/11	Intelligence, cont. Self and Personality	Chapter 11	
5/13	Self and Personality, cont.		
5/18	Language and Education	Chapter 10	
5/20	Language and Education, cont. Gender	Chapter 12	Short Paper #2
5/25	Gender, cont.		
5/27	Social Cognition	Chapter 13	
6/1	Attachment and Social Relationships	Chapter 14	
6/3	Social Relationships, cont.		Goals assessment due
6/6	All quizzes due Sunday 5:00 p.m.		Make sure to check the second page!
6/7	Extended Quiz Review		317L Cramer Hall;

			10:00-3:00
6/8	Final Exam: 10:15-12:05		Scantron needed

## Goals

### General Knowledge

Students will demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in developmental psychology.

### Research Methodology

Students will understand and be able to interpret and apply basic research methods in developmental psychology.

### Critical Thinking

Students will respect and use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and, when possible, the scientific approach to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes.

### Application of Psychology

Students will understand and apply psychological principles to personal, social, and organizational issues.

### Values in Psychology

To introduce students to the values that are the underpinning of psychology; particularly with respect to an appreciation of diversity and cultural context, and ethics in psychological research.

## QUESTIONS ABOUT GRADING

### What is the point structure for the class?

13 quizzes @ 10 point each	= 130
2 Discussions @ 5 points each	= 10
2 Short Papers @ 15 points each	= 30
Goals Assignment	= 5
Goals Assessment	= 5
Final Exam	= 60
Total Points	= 250

### Will grades be curved?

Yes, they will. I will take the highest score earned in the class and use that as the starting point (i.e. that will be "100%"). Then, I'll work my way down by 90/80/70/etc percentages for each grade. This means I cannot give you an exact grade breakdown until the final exam is in. However, how well you are doing on the quizzes is highly correlated with how well you do on the final exam, so you can use that as a gauge for your performance.

All statistics will be available on blackboard all quarter long, so you can get a good idea of what your standing is by comparing your score to the posted scores. Generally, the highest anyone scores is about 90-95% of the total points possible.

Once the class is finished, all statistics will be available and viewable by students so that you can see exactly what I did. I believe in transparency in grading.

### Is there extra credit?

Yes, there will be extra credit.

There is an extra credit quiz about class policies. The quiz is worth 2 points, and you can take it as many times as you need to until you get all the answers correct. It's available on the quizzes page.

There is also an associated [blog](#) with the course. You may earn a total of 2 points by leaving comments on the blog. Please read the [first blog post](#) for instructions and guidelines. To receive extra credit, the blog posts must be completed by Sunday, June 6.

There is also extra credit under the discussions tab on Blackboard. You may earn a point of extra credit for finding an online video link to material related to the course and posting it, along with a brief description of how the materials relates to the course.

There may also be the opportunity of participating in research for additional extra credit. I will let you know as this comes up over the course of the session. Usually, these will involve participation in research outside of class time.

After the session is over, there is no more extra credit available. So, if you want the extra credit, make sure to participate during the quarter.

### How does the extra credit work?

I curve the grades after all scores are in (i.e. after the final exam is graded). I set the curve using your scores and not counting the extra credit. After I do this, I add the extra credit. If you are bumped up to the next grade category, then that's your grade. Basically, what this means is that not doing the extra credit will not hurt your grade, but doing it might help. I aim for enough extra credit to make a difference for borderline grades.

If I go to class every day and do all the readings, does that guarantee me a good grade?

No, for most people, it doesn't. Basically:

$$\text{Your Grade} = \text{Ability} + \text{Effort}$$

If you are really quick - meaning you are really really high on ability - doing the readings and going to class *only* might get you a good grade. But, for most people, you need to study the material to get it to stick. And studying, especially effective studying, takes effort and time.

I don't think that anything in this class is intrinsically difficult. However, there is A LOT of material that you are expected to cover in one quarter and a fair amount of writing, and that's the part that makes it hard.

If you are looking for an easy A, you will NOT like this class. But, if you're willing to work, I hope you will have an enjoyable and challenging learning experience. I love teaching this class, and (although I'm certainly biased) I think the material is engaging and relevant to pretty much everyone.

### QUESTIONS ABOUT QUIZZES AND THE FINAL

When will the quizzes be available?

The quizzes will be available on blackboard shortly after the lecture that corresponds to that quiz. You may take them anytime before Sunday June 6 before 5:00 p.m.

I strongly encourage you to take the tests promptly - don't put off taking them! You should be taking about 1-2 quizzes a week to stay on top of things.

You may not share quiz content with other students. If I find evidence of this, I will take disciplinary action.

What if there's a problem with taking the quizzes?

If your computer freezes up or your answers aren't recorded or tallied, come and see me. I can pull up your file and get a pretty good idea of what happened, and we can fix it from there.

If you have recurrent computer problems, or you don't like taking tests on Blackboard, you can come into office hours and take the quizzes on

paper. You can do this any for any office hours and you do not need to tell me ahead of time if you want to do so. However, please do come in at the top of the hour so that we are not rushed. Many people take this option, please use it if you think it might be helpful!

### What if I don't get around to taking the quizzes before the deadline? Can I still take them later?

No, if you don't take the quizzes before the deadline, then you lose those points. So please be sure to take them before the deadline. **Make sure that you check the second page of quizzes.** The default on Blackboard is to show only the first 10 quizzes, and we will have 13 quizzes and the extra credit quiz this quarter, so there will be 4 quizzes on the second page.

### Why do we have to have time limits?

The reason there are time limits is because I want you to really know the material. It's fine to use your notes and readings while taking the exam, but if you don't know the material well, you won't be able to look up all the answers in the time period given. So please realize that just because the exam is open book/note, that doesn't mean that you should rely on that to do well. **You must know the material well to do well.** The quizzes are not easy.

I usually tell students that they should know the material well enough so that if you can't come up with the answer off the top of your head, you can at least remember where to look for it. Study as if you didn't have access to any materials, and use the materials only for backup.

Please note that if you are an ESL student, you may want to take advantage of the paper option for the quizzes. In that case, I can offer some extra time for language. You are also welcome to bring a dictionary to both the quizzes as well as the final exam.

### What if I am taking the quizzes and don't finish them within the allotted time period?

If you do not have enough time to finish, make sure you submit and save the questions you have had time to answer. If you do not do so, you will not get another opportunity to take the exam and you will lose the points.

### Can I look at my quizzes to see what I missed?

Yes, but you must come into office hours to do so. You will not be able to access your exams online after you take them. The reason I don't allow the quizzes to be released is because I don't want students who haven't yet taken them getting access to copies. Repeated class polling has indicated that students prefer this option to limiting the times quizzes are available.

Please note as well that there will be extended office hours on Monday June 7 from 10-3 in Cramer Hall 317L for you to review your quizzes.

### I keep doing badly on my quizzes; what do I do?

Come in and see me (or the TAs)! We can go over some of your quizzes, and by talking to you can usually get a pretty good idea of what's going on, and then offer study strategies for ways to improve your performance. But, if you don't come see me, I can't help you. This is a big class. Unless you tell me, I won't know that you need help.

### When is the final?

The final will be in class on Tuesday June 8 from 10:15-12:05. It is a cumulative, multiple choice, 60 question exam. You may use your notes (including the Powerpoint slides), but not your textbook. You may not copy pages off your textbook and bring those. You may use your computer if your notes are on there, but you must agree not to access the web during that time, and we reserve the right to see what is on your computer at all times. Please bring a scantron form 882 and a pencil.

## QUESTIONS ABOUT THE DISCUSSIONS

### What are the discussion questions?

The discussion postings are assignments that are worth 5 points each. Generally, the most common score is a 4 and a 5 is reserved for an exceptional posting. You can either start a thread or respond to a thread that is already started. I expect a posting to be about a paragraph in length.

### How are the discussion posts graded?

- 5 points: well-written, clear, incorporates the question asked and course materials, original, provides concrete examples
- 4 points: incorporates course material, some grammar/spelling issues, generally strong submission
- 3: may be unclear or vague, some grammar/spelling issues, weak examples
- 2: mere restatement of points, some grammar/spelling issues, no examples,
- 1: minimal effort, poorly written, does not answer question or add significantly to discussion, does not incorporate course materials

### Do the discussion questions have due dates?

Yes, they do. As with quizzes and papers, you must have them completed by the deadline. Once the deadline has passed, you cannot make up the points. The deadlines for the discussion postings are 4/22 and 5/6 and they are due by 11:50 a.m.

### Will you accept late discussion postings?

No. Once the deadline has passed, the discussions will be closed, and no further postings will be accepted. Given that you will have the topics available all session from the first day of class, I will be strict about this policy. If you have a legitimate excuse, you must show me documentation.

## QUESTIONS ABOUT PAPERS

### Will you accept late papers?

Sure. But you'll lose a lot of points and it's not really a good idea. To count as on time, they must be turned in by 11:50 a.m. After this, you have one week to complete them for half-credit. After one week, late papers will not be accepted. Given that you will have the topics available all quarter from the first day of class, I will be strict about this policy. Papers are due on 4/8 and 5/20.

### Will you read my paper before I turn it in?

No, I'm sorry, I can't do that. I have about 200 students for this class, and I just can't commit to doing that - it rapidly becomes unmanageable. I will, however, be happy to meet with you, have you tell me what you plan to include in your paper, give my feedback, hash over ideas, and basically tell you if you're on the right track. But, that needs to be done in person. Please don't email me your paper and ask me to correct it - just come into my office hours and talk to me instead. The TAs would be happy to help you in this regard as well.

I don't like the way my paper was graded; what can I do?

You are welcome to meet with me to discuss your paper and I'll explain why it was graded the way it was. Remember - you have the grading rubric. Use that as your guide to make sure you incorporate everything that needs to be there.

How do I turn papers in?

Please turn your papers in over the Blackboard assignments page. The easiest way to do this is to write the paper in a word document and then cut and paste it directly into the assignments box.

## QUESTIONS ABOUT GOALS AND GOAL ASSESSMENT

What are these?

These are two assignments worth 5 points each. In the first assignment, I want you to specify what your goals are this quarter. In the second assignment, I want you to think about if you met those goals, and why or why not.

Will they be accepted late?

No, the assignments are due on 4/6 and 6/3. If you don't get them in on time, you lose the points.

How should the Goals Assignments be turned in?

The goals assignments should be turned in over Blackboard. The easiest way to do this is to write the paper in a word document and then cut and paste it directly into the assignments box.

## QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CLASS VIDEOS

### Class videos?

Every day, the class will be filmed and the videos will be uploaded to Blackboard. The videos will be available under the Calendar link shortly after class is over.

## Class Policies

1. I don't take roll. Attendance is completely optional. After all, it's your money. I can pretty much guarantee that you'll get a better grade if you attend class however.
2. I don't provide copies of my class notes. If you miss class, I would suggest that you copy notes from a fellow student. Students often use the message board for this purpose, which seems to work rather well. Keep in mind the lecture slides are also available on blackboard under "learning modules."
3. I strongly encourage you to ask questions and to offer your opinions. However, please be respectful of other people's opinions. Keep in mind that other people are allowed to ask as many questions as they need to. And, don't worry about not staying on track (that's my job) - I enjoy a good discussion and find that to be a valuable part of the class.
4. While I am perfectly happy to provide review sessions and extra office hours prior to exams, I do not provide study guides.

5. If you have a documented disability that requires special accommodations, please contact me before the exam and I will be happy to make arrangements with you. If you need a note-taker, I will also be happy to make an anonymous announcement for one.
6. Any form of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of F as well as disciplinary action. This includes (but is not limited to) cheating on exams, plagiarizing (misrepresenting someone else's work as your own), depriving other students of necessary course materials, or sabotaging others' work.
7. You must complete the quizzes by the deadline, although you may take the quizzes at any point during the quarter. There are no make-ups for quizzes if you do not take them by the required time. Make sure that you check the second page of quizzes - the default on Blackboard is to show only the first 10 quizzes and you will miss the last 3 quizzes if you do not correct this. There is one quiz for every chapter we cover. Quizzes must be completed by Sunday, June 6 by 5:00 p.m.
8. Please check your schedules today to make sure that you can make the final exam time of Tuesday, June 8 from 10:15-12:05. If you have a valid and documented excuse then I will, of course, be willing to make arrangements, but if at all possible, contact me before the exam. Reasons such as wanting to leave for vacation early, already having bought your plane ticket, sleeping through the test, having to work, etc., will not be accepted. Remember that I require this of everyone. I know sometimes emergencies happen, and getting documentation is the last thing on your mind, but I need to have documentation. If you are sick, you will need to provide me with a doctor's note.
9. After the final exam has been taken, I will not change ANY grades unless there has been some mistake on my part in recording the grades. Let me point out that there will always be people who are "one point away" from a grade they really need, that there will always be graduating seniors who need this class to graduate, and that there will always be people who don't like the grade they received. I will work with you at great length before the final exam if you are worried about your grade, but after that I WILL NOT alter grades.

10. I do not provide "extra-credit" after the fact as this is patently unfair to other students. The grade you get is your final grade.
  
11. I offer incompletes for students who have a valid need for one. As with the above, I need a documented excuse. I do not give incompletes for people who are unhappy with their grades. If you take the final exam, even if you don't like your grade, you still completed the class.