GRS PS843 A1: Life Span Development
Mondays 10:00am – 12:00pm, CAD 202
Boston University
Fall, 2013

Instructor: Dr. Ruth E. McKenzie
Boston University, Department of Psychology
Vietnam Era Twin Study of Aging
648 Beacon St, Room 214
Boston, MA 02215
(617) 358-2037
remurray@bu.edu

Course Description: (from the BU course catalog) Examines human development throughout the life span and focuses on numerous domains of physical, cognitive, and psychosocial development in order to gain a better understanding of the multifaceted constructs and transitions between developmental stages that characterize human development.

Grading:
Attendance – 10%
Required. Students are responsible for all materials covered in class as well as reading assignments. In the event that you miss class, it is your responsibility to catch up on missed lecture material. In-class exercises will not be available for make-up.

In-class student participation – 50%
Students will be graded on their participation in weekly class discussions of lecture material and assigned, required readings.

Final Term Paper – 40%
The final term paper should be a research paper, approximately 15 pages, focusing on a health outcome/psychopathology (or a combination of associated variables) of your choice from a life-span developmental perspective incorporating core issues such as: nature/nurture, critical periods/plasticity, continuity/discontinuity, epigenetics, multilevel/multidimensional systems approach, or longitudinal research.

All students at Boston University are expected to maintain high standards of academic integrity and honesty. Academic misconduct (including, but not limited to, plagiarism and cheating) will not be tolerated and is subject to penalty. Please refer to the student handbook for a full description of college policies.

** Instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus on an as-needed basis throughout the term. Students will be notified by email or by announcement in class when revisions are made. **
WEEKLY SYLLABUS

9/9  Introductions

Review of the Syllabus

The Life Span Developmental Perspective & Core Issues in Development

9/16  Biological Beginnings

Evolutionary Persective
Genetic Foundations
Heredity, Environment, and Individual Differences

Required Readings:

9/23  Prenatal Development

Prenatal Development
Birth
The Postpartum Period

Required Reading:

9/30  Infancy

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Physical, Motor, and Sensory Development

Cognitive Development

Required Reading:


10/7 Infancy (cont’d)

Emotion and Personality Development

Attachment

Required Reading:


10/15 (TUESDAY CLASS) Early Childhood

Physical Development

Cognitive Development

Required Reading:


10/21 Early Childhood (cont’d)

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Emotion and Personality Development
Families
Peer Relations

Required Reading:


10/28 Middle and Late Childhood

Required Readings:


11/4 Adolescence

Required Readings:


11/11 Adolescence (cont’d)

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Required Readings:


11/18 Early Adulthood

Readings:


11/25 Middle Adulthood

Required Readings:


12/2 Late Adulthood PAPERS DUE - Monday, December 2nd

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Required Readings:


12/9 Regret, Death, and Grieving

2. Bauer, I.M. Coping with life regrets across the adult lifespan.