

BROCK UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF CHILD AND YOUTH STUDIES

CHYS 3P11 THEORIES OF DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIALIZATION – WINTER 2008

Instructor: Dr. Anthony Volk
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Office Hours: By appointment
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Lectures: Thursdays 17:00 –20:00, TH 255

Text: Miller, P.H. (2002). *Theories of Developmental Psychology* (4th ed.). NY: Worth Publishers. Required.

Course Description:

This course focuses on presenting psychological theories of development and socialization. A strong emphasis will be placed on understanding how theories are created and tested. Alternate theories (e.g., anthropological, sociological, critical) will be explored alongside traditional developmental psychology theories. Students are encouraged to participate in active discussions of the validity and utility of various theories in explaining child development and socialization.

Course Objectives:

The goal of the course is to teach students how theories are developed so that they can become both educated consumers of the child development literature, as well as to help students develop research theories of their own for future work (e.g., Honours theses). By the end of the class, students should not only have an understanding of a broad range of theories, they should be able to understand the basics of designing, testing, and interpreting their own theories.

Course Evaluation:

Mid Term 1- 25%
Mid Term 2- 30%
Final Exam- 35%
Class Participation – 10%

Tests:

The mid-term exams will consist of short answer and essay questions on Chapters 0(Intro)-2 and on Chapters 3-6 respectively. Each test will cover lecture material and the chapters indicated on the course schedule listed below. The final exam will test for Chapters 7-9, as well as some applied questions that may require knowledge from all of the Chapters. Additional information about the format and content of each test will be provided in class.

Withdrawing from the Course:

Please note that March 7, 2008 is the last date for withdrawal without academic penalty and last day to change from credit to audit status for duration 2 courses. You will be provided with your grades from the first test by February 14, 2008.

Missed Exams:

When possible, missed exams are to be supported by appropriate documentation (e.g., Doctor's note) by the student or the student may receive a grade of ZERO on that exam or presentation. Possible circumstances for missing an exam may include religious or cultural reasons or may be due to illness. If at all possible, the instructor should be informed prior to the date of the scheduled exam. If you have any doubt about whether an event, illness, or circumstance qualifies for an exemption or deferral, please contact the instructor ASAP.

Missed mid-term exams will have their grades added to later exams (equally). There WILL NOT be make-up exams for the mid-term exams. Make-ups for the final exam will be scheduled as required.

Academic Misconduct:

Because academic integrity is vital to the well-being of the university community, Brock University takes academic misconduct very seriously. Students are urged to read the section of the Brock University Undergraduate Calendar that pertains to academic misconduct. Students are also reminded that the Student Development Center (Schmon Tower, Room 400) offers free workshops on writing and study skills and on avoiding plagiarism. Electronic plagiarism detection will not be used.

Class Participation:

Participation in the class is very important and accounts for 10% of your overall grade. Participation will take the form of active participation. Students will be given 1% for each class in which they actively participate by asking questions, answering questions, and/or contributing to class discussions. In other words, I want you to think about the material deeply enough so that you can ask questions that not only demonstrate your insights into the material, but questions that also relate to areas that you are interested in (e.g., teaching, parenting, interventions, etc.).

Grades and Completion of the Course:

Final grades in the course will be calculated at the end of the semester with the grades being rounded to comply with the 0, 2, 5, 8 marking scheme and any such computations shall be at the discretion of the instructor. **To obtain completed standing in this course, students must complete at least one of the mid-term exams as well as the final exam. If a student is not able to meet these requirements, their standing in the course will be determined by the instructor and the Department of C&YS.**

WebCT:

WebCT has been offered as a resource where you can communicate with your classmates and the instructor about course content and any related questions. It will include postings of course business, lecture notes, and helpful guides. WebCT is an optional resource, and is not required for successful completion of the course. Please note that while all reasonable efforts will be made, the instructor is not required to accommodate all students with course notes that they deem satisfactory. Course notes are an optional supplement, not a mandatory requirement, of the course.

Course Outline:

Week 1 – January 10

Course Overview and Introduction to Theory

Read: Introduction

Week 2 – January 17

Piaget and Neo-Piagetians

Read: Chapter 1

Week 3 – January 24

Freud and Erikson

Read: Chapter 2

Week 4 – January 31

Mid-Term 1

Week 5 – February 7

Social Learning

Read: Chapter 3

Week 6 – February 14

Information Processing Theory

Read: Chapter 4

Week 7 – February 28

Ethology and Evolutionary Theories

Read: Chapter 5

Week 8 – March 6

Gibson's Ecological Theory

Read: Chapter 6

Week 9 – March 13

Mid-Term 2

Week 10 – March 20

Vygotsky

Read: Chapter 7

Week 11 – March 27

Contemporary Minitheories

Read: Chapter 8

Week 12 – April 3

Critical Theories and Reflections

Read: Chapters 8 & 9