



## PSY 251: Child Development

### Student Syllabus

#### Course Description

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Development and behavior from conception through middle childhood, including genetic influences, developmental processes, and psychological processes related to physical, linguistic, social, intellectual, emotional, and personal development.

#### Course Introduction

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PSY 251 is an introductory course into the field of developmental child psychology. This course will focus on milestones in child development in a chronological format. Throughout the course, students will ask and explore the basic question: How does a child change and grow over time beginning in the prenatal phase into adolescence? Attention will be given to research methodology and data collection over this time period.

#### Course Outcomes

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Upon completion of this course, the learner will be able to:

1. Discuss various theoretical perspectives on child development.
2. Identify milestones in various areas of childhood with specific attention to physical, cognitive, and social development.
3. Examine the nature and nurture influences on the developing child.
4. Comprehend research methodology in child development.
5. Utilize, experience, apply, and practice research methodologies.
6. Describe, more fully, God's design for human development and appreciate the unfolding of his creation through the developing child.

#### Course Texts

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Feldman, R. S. (2016). *Child development* (7<sup>th</sup> ed.). Pearson Education.  
ISBN-13: 978-0133852035  
ISBN-10: 0133852032

#### Textbook Disclaimer

The textbooks for this course were chosen because their primary content directly relates to the objectives of this course. At times, there may be items or issues that are not presented from a proper

Christian worldview. As such, the textbooks do not represent an endorsement by Geneva College or the relevant academic department at Geneva College.

## Learning and Physical Disabilities Policy

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Geneva College values diversity and inclusion and recognizes disabilities as an aspect of diversity. Our shared goal is to create learning environments that are accessible, equitable, and inclusive, ultimately leading to the success of our students in and beyond college. Therefore, Geneva College complies with the ADA as well as Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act by affording reasonable accommodations to qualified students with disabilities. Any student with a disability who needs academic accommodations should contact Geneva's Student Success Center (SSC) to arrange a confidential appointment with the Director of the SSC before or during the first week of classes. (Some accommodations may take time to put into place, so it is advised to request this appointment as early as possible.) Legally, no retroactive accommodations can be provided. Accommodations for disabilities are available only as recommended by the SSC. Students whose accommodations are approved will be provided confidential letters which students should review and discuss with their instructors in relation to course requirements. Students who have questions about their right to benefits or have grievances under these statutes should contact the Director of the SSC. For more details, visit the [Student Success Center website](#) or call 724-847-5005.

## Archiving of Online Courses

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In order to provide the best service and to eliminate bandwidth bottlenecks, online courses will be removed from Moodle six weeks after the course end date. Once a course is removed from Moodle, students will no longer have access to their coursework for the archived course. In preparation for the archiving of online courses, students are advised to save copies of their papers and other important coursework offline on a personal computer or other file storage location. Geneva College is not responsible for student files once a course has been archived offline.

## The Grading System

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The grading scale is A, B, C, D, and F. Geneva includes pluses (+) and minuses (-) in the determination of the grade point average (GPA). Grade points are assigned for each semester hour of credit earned according to the following system:

| Letter Grade | Percentage       | GPA | Explanation |
|--------------|------------------|-----|-------------|
| A            | 93.00% - 100.00% | 4.0 | Excellent   |
| A-           | 90.00% - 92.99%  | 3.7 |             |
| B+           | 87.00% - 89.99%  | 3.3 |             |
| B            | 83.00% - 86.99%  | 3.0 | Good        |

|           |                        |            |                               |
|-----------|------------------------|------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>B-</b> | <b>80.00% - 82.99%</b> | <b>2.7</b> |                               |
| <b>C+</b> | <b>77.00% - 79.99%</b> | <b>2.3</b> |                               |
| <b>C</b>  | <b>73.00% - 76.99%</b> | <b>2.0</b> | <b>Satisfactory</b>           |
| <b>C-</b> | <b>70.00% - 72.99%</b> | <b>1.7</b> |                               |
| <b>D+</b> | <b>67.00% - 69.99%</b> | <b>1.3</b> |                               |
| <b>D</b>  | <b>63.00% - 66.99%</b> | <b>1.0</b> | <b>Less than Satisfactory</b> |
| <b>D-</b> | <b>60.00% - 62.99%</b> | <b>0.7</b> |                               |
| <b>F</b>  | <b>&lt; 60.00%</b>     | <b>0.0</b> | <b>No Credit Given</b>        |

## Policy on Academic Honesty

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Geneva College has adopted a campus wide policy on academic honesty; the main portions of which are summarized here. Students should become aware of the fuller policy found in Appendix A of the student handbook.

When an instructor has reason to believe that dishonest behavior has occurred, the parties involved should be confronted as soon as possible by the instructor and notification made to the instructor's proper supervisor (see Appendix A of the student handbook).

Sanctions may be levied on the student, which could range from an informal warning to expulsion, based on the seriousness of the student's offense (see Appendix A of the student handbook).

Students may appeal any disciplinary action by following the procedure laid out in the College's Policy on Academic Honesty (see Appendix A of the student handbook).

Students are encouraged to visit [www.plagiarism.org](http://www.plagiarism.org) in order to clarify what constitutes plagiarism as well as a number of other academic standards. This website also provides directives as to how to avoid committing this act and how to properly cite academic sources.

## Turnitin Policy

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Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to [Turnitin.com](http://Turnitin.com) for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Students must agree to the End User License Agreement (EULA) for Turnitin. Use of the Turnitin service is subject to the Usage Policy and Privacy Pledge posted on Turnitin.com.

## Participation Policy

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In the online environment, **participation is marked by the completion of an *academic event* in each session (week) of the course.** Academic events include, but are not limited to, submission of a class assignment, participation in class discussion forum, or completion of a quiz/exam.

**If no academic event is completed within the first session (Week 1) of a course, the student will be administratively withdrawn from the course.** Beyond the first session, if no academic event is completed for a class session, the student will be considered as having not participated in that week of class, which in some cases may result in zeros on the missed assignments and a half-letter grade deduction from the student's final course grade.

**If a student does not complete an academic event for two consecutive sessions, the student will either be administratively withdrawn from the course or will receive a final course grade of F,** depending on how much of the course has transpired at the time of the second week of nonparticipation. For more details, please review Geneva's Student Handbook ([Undergraduate](#) and [Graduate](#)).

## Course Evaluation

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| Criteria                      | Points Breakdown | Points     |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------|
| Discussion Forums (8)         | 30 points each   | 240 points |
| Quizzes (4)                   | 35 points each   | 140 points |
| Child Development Project (4) | 100 points each  | 400 points |
| Total                         |                  | 780 points |

## Assignment Descriptions

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### Discussion Forums

Class participation is monitored by postings and responses in the discussion forum. Typically, class participation is composed of two parts:

- Part 1 – Requires you to go to your discussion forum and post a response to a question or prompt that is written in your syllabus by 11:55 pm (EST) Wednesday of your scheduled session week. Your instructor will generally respond to your post within 24 hours. Depending on the nature of the assignment, the instructor may have a follow up question for you, ask you for clarification or further details, or direct your conversation to someone else for rebuttal.

- b. Part 2 – Respond back to your instructor’s post. In addition, post a response to at least two of your fellow classmates’ postings, using 1 or 2 paragraphs. Your response should further the discussion (e.g., ask a question, provide further information or examples, or introduce a different opinion). In particular, one response to a classmate **MUST** be in the form of a question that seeks to further the conversation. Your question must be posed by 11:55 pm (EST) Friday of the scheduled session week so that your classmate has adequate time to answer it.

Likewise, if a question is posed to you by Friday night, you are also required to answer it.

Part 2 of these online activities (response to instructor, response to classmates’ questions of you, and responses to your classmates) must be completed by 11:55 pm (EST) Saturday of each session.

Your posting and responses will be graded by your instructor.

## Quizzes

During this course, there will be four quizzes that cover the essential elements of the textbook and help students review and identify important facets of child development. These quizzes will include multiple choice questions taken from the material covered in the respective session.

- Session 1 – Students will take an online quiz on Chapters 1-2 of the textbook (35 points)
- Session 3 – Students will take an online quiz on Chapters 5-6 of the textbook (35 points)
- Session 5 – Students will take an online quiz on Chapters 9-10 of the textbook (35 points)
- Session 7 – Students will take an online quiz on Chapters 13-14 of the textbook (35 points)

Students will be allowed to consult their text and notes when taking online quizzes. However, quizzes will be timed, and students will need to have a working knowledge of the material before taking the quiz. There will simply not be enough time to “look up” every answer in your text and materials.

If a student does not take a quiz by Saturday at 11:55 pm (EST) of the designated session week, they will not have an opportunity to make it up.

## Child Development Project

In this course, students will engage in the Child Development Project which is designed to encourage application of course concepts and principles. The Child Development Project will be worked on in four parts. Within each of the four Child Development Project assignments in the Moodle classroom, students will find a link to a document containing a list of possible activities for each assignment. Students are to select and complete one activity for each of the four assignments.

The Child Development Project is meant to encourage the student to reflect on and apply course concepts to his or her life. As such, these projects should be individualized and reflected upon. Students are encouraged to complete the activities that will be especially meaningful to their life and career choice.

Each of the four Child Development Project parts will be graded on content, style, and timeliness. They should each be 3-5 pages in length and adhere to typical APA style and formatting (double spacing, proper APA citations, etc.).

These assignments are due by 11:55 pm (EST) Saturday of the designated session week.