

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE NUMBER: PSY 635

COURSE TITLE: Childhood And Adolescence

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REQUIRED TEXT: Berk, Laura (2010). Development through the lifespan, Fifth Edition.
New York: Allyn & Bacon.

WEB SITE: The website above has supplementary readings, bibliography, useful links and a copy of this syllabus available for download.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: A seminar focusing on the application of developmental theories and research to the clinical practice of assessment, diagnosis and treatment of children and adolescents. Considers all areas of the developmental process will be considered in addition to issues surrounding diversity, gender and other relevant contexts. Addresses differences between normal developmental transitions, adjustment reactions to life events and/or trauma and deviations in development.

COURSE CONTENT AREAS: In the process of this course learners will learn:

1. Theoretical perspectives applied in the practice of psychotherapy, particularly as it pertains to the identification, assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of children and adolescents.
2. The concepts of normal development, diversity, multiculturalism, and deviant behaviors as they relate to the development of children and adolescents.
3. History of childhood and adolescence and its influences on the identification, assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of children and adolescence.

METHODOLOGY: This course will utilize lecture, discussion, role play, personal investigation and an individual research paper. It is crucial that the student attend all classes, to be on time and stay for the full class. The learner needs to be present for all processing of assignments to get full credit for them. There will be point deductions for handing written work in late. Emergency absence and lateness require instructor notification.

REQUIREMENTS: In accordance with University guidelines, no student may receive credit for the class with more than three absences.
In supporting National's policy of writing across the curriculum, every assignment is designed to be a useful writing exercise. This means that every line that is turned in needs

to be written as if it is being given to a job supervisor who expects full and literate sentences, written according to directions, and in a timely and professional manner. All papers will have 1” margins, no greater than 12 point type and will be double-spaced. References are required when writing papers. There will be a point deduction for less than university level work.

ABILITIES:

Abilities are tasks that therapists should be able to perform. In order to do so, therapists have to draw on relevant knowledge and skills. In this syllabus, abilities are listed as broad categories of performance that also function as class goals and that are further broken down into the sub-categories of knowledge and skills. The knowledge and skills sections are more specific in stating criteria for evaluation of these components

Related to diagnosis, evaluation, and outcomes assessment:

1. Identify theoretical perspectives on child and adolescent development and apply them to the understanding of the problems of children and adolescents.
2. Identify the familial and developmental origins of child and adolescent problems and apply current treatment approaches effectively.
3. Distinguish behaviors that are a part of normal development from those that deviate from normal development.

Related to diagnosis, evaluation, and outcomes assessment:

1. Know theories of development in children and adolescents.
2. Understand the theoretical perspectives relating to developmental norms for children and adolescents.
3. Identify the developmental processes of growth and change in children and adolescents.
4. Identify the stages of family lifestyle development as they pertain to the personality of children and adolescents.
5. Identify developmental history to determine impact on the functioning of children and adolescents.

Related to psychotherapeutic interventions:

1. Know how to incorporate knowledge of child and adolescent development into decisions about treatment including theoretical orientation and choice or design of treatment options.
2. Know how to assess the results of interventions used.
3. Know how to identify and prioritize clinical issues in the treatment of children and adolescents.

GRADING: Grading will be in compliance with the National University grading system as outlined in your catalog. The plus and minus system will be utilized in compliance with the National University General Catalog. There are 100 points to be earned in the course.

Letter Grade	Points	Letter Grade	Points
A	95 to 100	C	73 to 75
A-	90 to 94	C-	70 to 72
B+	86 to 89	D+	66 to 69
B	83 to 85	D	63 to 65
B-	80 to 82	D-	60 to 62
C+	76 to 79	F	Below 60

ASSIGNMENTS: Assignments for this course and the due dates appear below. Assignments submitted after the due date will be reduced in point score. No assignments will be accepted after the last class.

Assignment	Due Date	Points
Quiz 1	March 13, 2012	5
Quiz 2	March 20, 2012	5
Quiz 3	March 27, 2012	5
Research Paper	March 29, 2012	30
Participation		10
Final Exam	March 31, 2012	45
	TOTAL	100

EXPLANATION OF ASSIGNMENTS

Quizzes Multiple choice quizzes, usually 10 items long. Questions are drawn from the text and presentations.

Research Paper 8-12 pages of tightly written research findings from peer reviewed journal articles in which you will integrate one/two major theoretical approaches (e.g. Freud, Erikson, Piaget, family systems, cognitive-behavioral) with a child/adolescent problem/disorder. Paper must include APA title page, abstract, introduction, review of literature, summary and discussion. Paper writing and APA requirements will be covered in classes in the semester. The paper is due March 29, 2012.

Final Exam This will cover all material in this course. This final can take four hours so budget your time accordingly. This examination is scheduled for March 31, 2012.

Class Schedule and Readings

Class Date	Material Covered	Readings
03/06/2012	Course & Subject Overview	
03/8/2012	The beginning	Chapter 1, 2 & 3
03/13/2012	Infancy Quiz 1	Chapter 4 & 5
03/15/2012	Early Childhood	Chapter 6
03/20/2012	Early Childhood Quiz 2	Chapter 7 & 8
03/22/2012	Middle Childhood	Chapter 9 & 10
03/27/2012	Adolescence Quiz 3	Chapter 11
03/29/2012	Adolescence Research Paper due	Chapter 12
03/31/2012	Final Exam	