Description: The focus of this course will be on individual development from early childhood to late adolescence. At a general level we will examine the genetic and biological contributions to individual development, the social contextual contributions, and the interaction between these two general sets of variables. Specific topics will include: behavioral genetics, temperament, parent-child relations, sibling relations, peer relations, the self, intelligence, emotional development, and problems of social development (antisocial behavior, depression).

Requirements: To complete the course students will be required to (1) take one midterm exam based on the lectures from the first part of the course; (2) take one final exam based on the lectures from the second part of the course, (3) take weekly quizzes based on the readings from the text book (4) present a summary and discussion of a research article selected by the student from the Supplementary Readings (each student will be required to read just one of the supplemental reading articles that will be used for this assignment), and (5) to write a term paper (10 – 15 pages, see below for description) discussing the research and theories presented in class and in the textbook.

Presentation of Research Article: Each student will be required to select one of the supplementary readings and present a PowerPoint presentation regarding that article. This discussion should include a brief summary of the research (including research questions, methods, results, conclusions) and a critique of the methods and conclusions. **Presentations for each article will be given on the day that the article appears on the syllabus calendar. Students must meet with prof. Kiesner the week before giving the presentation to discuss the article and agree on the content of the presentation.**

Term Paper: Each student is expected to write one term paper. This term paper must be 10-15 pages in length, and must address one of the two theoretical papers presented in the course (Moffitt, 1993 or Vaish et al., 2008). Students will be required to critically discuss the selected theoretical paper considering and integrating material from the lectures, the text, and the supplemental readings that are made available.


Attendance policy. Students are expected to attend all classes; absences will affect your course grade.
Session 1: Research methods review: September 6
   Required Readings:
   Chapter 1 from the text.

Session 2: Biological and Genetic Influences: September 13
   Required Readings:
   Chapter 3 from the text.

Session 3: Biological and Genetic Influences: September 17
   Required Readings:
   Chapter 3 from the text. QUIZ
   Supplementary Readings:

Session 4: Family and Parent Influences: September 20
   Required Readings:
   Supplementary Readings:

Session 5: Family and Parent Influences: September 27
   Required Readings:
   Chapter 12 from the text. QUIZ
   Supplementary Readings:

Session 6: Negativity Bias: October 4
   Required Readings:
   Chapter 8 from the text. QUIZ

   (Theoretical Paper that may be used for Term paper.)

   Supplementary Readings:
   Chapter 9 from the text.
Session 7: Development of Antisocial Behavior:  
**Required Readings:**  
Chapter 2 from the text. QUIZ  

(Theoretical Paper that may be used for Term paper.)

Session 8: Midterm Exam based on lectures:  

Session 9: Peer Relations and Peer Influence:  
**Required Readings:**  

**Supplementary Readings:**  

Session 10: Peer Relations and Peer Influence:  
**Required Readings:**  

**Supplementary Readings:**  


Session 11: The Self:  
**Required Readings:**  

**Supplementary Readings:**  

Session 12: Development of Depression: November 22

Required Readings:
Chapter 10 from the text. QUIZ

Supplementary Readings:


Session 13: Life Experience and its Outcomes: November 29

Required Readings:
Chapter 14 from the text. QUIZ

Supplementary Readings:

Session 14: Life Experience and its Outcomes: December 6

Final Exam: December 13

Based on lecture materials following the midterm exam.

Grading:

- Presentation: 20 points
- Midterm: 20 Points
- Quizzes: 20 Points
- Final Exam: 20 points
- Final Paper: 20 points

- 90-100 = A
- 80-89 = B
- 70-79 = C
- 60-69 = D
- ≤ 59 = F