PSYC UN 3620: Developmental Psychopathology
Columbia University
Spring 2022

COURSE SYLLABUS

Class time and location: Mon. 2:10 – 4:00 in 405 Schermerhorn
Instructor: Hannah Hoch, Ph.D., BCBA-D
Email: hhoch@barnard.edu (Please include your full name in all emails)
Office hours: Mon. 4:00 – 4:30 pm & by appointment
** Although my formal office hours will be held during the time above my schedule is flexible and I am happy to meet at a different time. Please make an appointment to see me if you have questions, or just want to chat. I love working with students and would be delighted to meet with you.

Course Overview:
Developmental psychopathology posits that it is development itself that has gone awry when there is psychopathology. As such, it seeks to understand the early and multiple factors contributing to psychopathology emerging in childhood and later in life. We will use several models (e.g., ones dominated by biological, genetic, and psychological foci) to understand the roots of mental illness. This course will begin with an overview of the field and foundational concepts, and then move to examine key domains that serve as risk factors (e.g., temperament) and current research in specific diagnostic areas (e.g., Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder). The course will conclude with a critical examination of the tension between the influence of the psychiatric perspective and a newly emerging research paradigm.

Student Learning Outcomes:
Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:
1) Demonstrate knowledge of the key concepts, assumptions, and principles associated with the developmental psychopathology perspective
2) Employ a broad range of criteria for differentiating between normal and abnormal development in children and youth
3) Identify multiple factors and processes associated with the onset and course of a range of problems and disorders experienced by children and youth
4) Demonstrate knowledge of evidence-based intervention and prevention techniques in treatment of childhood psychological disorders;

Prerequisites:
PSYC 1001 (Introduction to Psychology); PSYC 2280 (Developmental Psychology); PSYC 2620 (Abnormal Behavior)

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

Attendance:
Please do your best to attend class and arrive on time. If you are attending remotely, my preference is for you to appear on video, but that is optional. One unexcused absence is allowed during the semester. Additional unexcused absences may be penalized by a reduction of your
participation grade. There will be no penalty for excused absences. **If you know you will miss at least 2 classes, please contact me ASAP.**

**Participation:**
This class will be taught in a seminar format. In any seminar class, student participation is essential for creating an enriched learning environment. It is expected that students will actively participate in class discussions on a regular basis. Students are expected to be active listeners, and to be courteous and respectful of classmates during class discussions. Given the content of this course sensitive topics will be discussed. It is expected that students be mindful of others’ experiences, and careful in their language (e.g., use person-first language) and comments (e.g., be analytic rather than critical).

When we shift to in-person classes, remote attendance via Zoom will remain an available option. Should you have to attend remotely, it is expected that you will actively participate in class discussions to the best of your ability. Given the unpredictable conditions caused by the pandemic, I understand that participation on a given day (or series of days) may be difficult. If you anticipate having or come to encounter regular difficulties, please contact me as soon as possible, so that we can discuss potential solutions.

**Reading Assignments:**
Readings will be comprised of a selection of chapters and articles. All students are expected to read the assigned articles and book chapters prior to class. Readings will be posted on the Canvas Calendar/Syllabus. **Please use that as your guide** for the assigned readings each week. Please come to class prepared to discuss all of the required readings.

**Discussion Questions:**
For each set of readings, you must submit at least 1 post (comment/question) per topic to the Discussion Board on Canvas. Questions for the week’s readings are due no later than Sat. at 9 am EST 2 days before the class meeting. Questions posted after the deadline will result in point deductions. Keep in mind that the discussion leaders need your questions for their presentations, so out of respect for them I encourage you to be on time with your posts. Note: Discussion leaders do NOT need to post the week of their class presentation.

Your discussion posts should reflect thoughtful analysis and consideration of the research and theories presented in the readings, and should not be overly vague (e.g., “How do you work with children who are exhibiting tantrum behavior?”), nor limited to details of the article (e.g., “Why didn’t the authors try a different intervention?”). A good discussion post should be analytic, insightful, and critical. It should stimulate further discussion. You might reflect on a connection between the current reading and a previous one, or an experience you’ve had. You may also post a link to a relevant article, blog post, or video, along with a comment about its relevance. An example of a strong discussion post is as follows:

*Development is a complex term that encompasses a variety of concepts, including the possibility of growth encompassing both adaptive and maladaptive qualities and behaviors, as influenced by biological (ex: genetic) factors, environmental (ex: social) factors, and an interaction of the two. The various pathways outlined in the readings*
indicate how biological and environmental factors can interact during childhood to create very different experiences for individuals, resulting in varying levels of optimal functioning during adolescence and adulthood. The potential for various experiences to result in the same maladaptive behavior, and for the same experience to result in different behaviors, is fascinating and requires further research and investigation to fully comprehend all of the variables involved in these concepts. How can we integrate the notions of vulnerability and individual differences into our research? How do biological, psychological, and social processes (mediators) directly and indirectly interact with attributes of the individual and of their environment (moderators) as well as with major, minor, and chronic life events (stresors)? How can we learn more about the continuity of disorder, especially regarding how attributes (ex: hyperactivity) can present themselves in various forms as a child develops?

Discussion posts are each worth 5 points (5 points per post, 1 post per week, for 9 weeks = 45 points total). Posts submitted past the deadline will receive half credit. Posts submitted the day of class or later will not be scored (i.e., no points will be earned for that week). Point totals will be converted to percentages (e.g., 41 out of 45 points will be converted to a total score of 91%) and will then be factored into your final grade. In total your discussion posts will count for 15% of your final course grade.

**Discussion Leadership:**
One or two students will serve as discussion leaders each week. The leaders will be required to present a brief summary and critique of the assigned and supplemental readings and lead the discussion. The discussion should focus on how the disorder is expressed, as well as how it is portrayed in society (e.g., how information on the problem is portrayed via websites, television shows, movies or other media either in the U.S. or internationally). It should help your classmates gain insight into the topic of the week beyond the assigned readings, and thus will require additional research to expand on the readings. Discussion leaders should consider showing a media sample (e.g., video clip, social media post) and discussing the accuracy of the information, who created the information (e.g., scientists, corporation, etc.), who the target audience is, and the impact this example may have on children, youth, and families.

Presenters are expected to meet with me one week prior to the presentation to review supplemental readings and organization of the discussion. Each presentation must be accompanied by a Google Slides presentation of the class discussion, which should be shared with me as early as possible and no later than 9 pm EST Sat. night before the class presentation. Presentations turned in late will result in point deductions. Discussion leadership will be scored out of 100 points (45 points for preparation, 45 points for in class leadership, and 10 points for meeting deadlines), and is worth a total of 20% of your grade.

**WRITING ASSIGNMENTS**

“Early Diagnosis” Opinion Essay
Provide a thoughtful 2-3-page response to the following question: Should children under the age of two be diagnosed with a mental disorder if they meet diagnostic criteria? This assignment is due Week 4, Feb. 14th and is worth 15% of your final grade.
A few notes that may be helpful:
- I don’t think there is any one correct answer for this. I just want you to wrestle with the question and provide support for your arguments. It's fine if you don't have a definite "yes" or "no" answer - just be sure to describe your reasoning.
- One thing that makes this type of question tough to answer is that we often have minimal data to guide our thinking. For this exercise it may help to think about what information would be most helpful, and you can discuss how your view would be informed by hypothetical data (i.e., "If we did the appropriate studies and discovered X, then it would argue for / against...").
- It might be helpful to look at some parent and professional blogs and see how their thoughts compare. This is not a requirement, but might help you think about how to answer the question.
- While this paper is an opinion piece, you should consider research when formulating your response. This may be a useful reference: Merten, E., Cwik, J., Margraf, J., & Schneider, S. (2017). Overdiagnosis of mental disorders in children and adolescents (in developed countries). Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Mental Health, 11, 1-11.
- Remember to properly cite any references (research or other sources) you use to formulate your response.

Memoir, Book Club & Reaction Paper:
Students are required to read a memoir written by an individual (or family member) who experienced a disorder of childhood, participate in a group ‘Book Club” discussion about the memoir, and write a brief reaction paper to the memoir. You will choose from 4 memoirs (listed below). Selections are due on week 3, Feb. 7th. We will break up into groups to discuss them on “Book Club” day, Feb. 21st (week 5). Sign ups will be done via a Google Doc (posted under Collaborations on Canvas). The paper is due the week following book club, on Feb. 28th. Guidelines for the paper will be posted on Canvas (under Assignments). Participation in book club is worth 10 points, and the paper is worth 90 points. Completion of this assignment is worth 15% of your final grade.

Research Paper & Presentation
To further the application of your knowledge and understanding of developmental psychopathology, you will prepare a research review paper focused on a particular topic related to the diagnosis, assessment or treatment of childhood disorders. The paper will provide a review of contemporary empirical research that informs our current knowledge of the chosen subject area and will take the format of a literature review article. You will deliver a brief summary of your research in the form of a 3-minute TED Talk presentation during one of the final 2 class meetings (April 25th or May 2nd).

Papers must be written in accordance with APA 7 style guidelines. A minimum of 8 scholarly works (peer-reviewed journal articles) must be cited. The paper should be 10-15 pages in length (not including title page, abstract, references). In total this project will be worth 100 points and will count for 35% of your final grade in the class. Specific writing guidelines will be posted on Canvas. The following are benchmarks and due dates:

- Step 1: Topic proposal. Select a topic of interest and write a brief abstract. Due March 7th (week 7).
• Step 2: Outline of paper - due March 28\textsuperscript{th} (week 10)
• Step 3: Oral presentation – 4/28 or 5/2 (week 14 or 15)
• Step 4: Final paper – due after the final class on Wed. May 4\textsuperscript{th}

General Guidelines for Writing Assignments:
Writing assignments are due in class on the assigned dates. Point deductions for late papers will be calculated as follows: -5 for papers turned in 1-2 days late; -10 for papers turned in 3-6 days late; Papers turned in more than one week past the due date will not be graded (your score will be reduced to 0). To maximize points for written assignments:

• Turn the paper in on time.
• Write in a clear, organized manner. Avoid grammatical and spelling errors.
• Include introductory and concluding paragraphs.
• Include all required elements in the paper.
• Keep to the standard page and formatting requirements (i.e., double spaced, 12 font, regular page margins).
• Follow APA style (use Publication Manual of the APA: Seventh Edition as your guide). Information on APA formatting can be found on the Purdue Online Writing Lab.

Course grade:
In general, a grade of “C” indicates adequate mastery of the material and merely competent written and oral presentation; a “B” shows additional effort, with full understanding of the research and concepts, clear and well-produced written work and regular class participation; and an “A” is reserved for those students producing superior work, which includes a full comprehension of materials accompanied by thoughtful, well-written papers that go beyond the assignment and exceptional class participation.

Final grades will be computed as follows:

\begin{itemize}
  \item 10\% Participation (In-class)
  \item 10\% Discussion board questions
  \item 20\% Discussion leadership & presentation
  \item 15\% Early Diagnosis essay
  \item 15\% Memoir Reaction Paper
  \item 30\% Research paper & presentation
\end{itemize}

The following grading scale is used: A+: 98-100; A: 94-97.9; A-: 90-93.9; B+: 86-89.9; B: 82-85.9; B-: 79-81.9; C+: 76-78.9; C: 72-75.9; C-: 66-71.9; D: 60-65.9; F: 59.9 and below. Once your final grade has been assigned there will be no changes made except in the case of clerical error. Incompletes will not be given to students who are not passing the course (except in extenuating circumstances, with the approval of your advisor and class dean).

GENERAL INFORMATION

Honor Code:
The instructor values The Columbia University Honor Code for the integrity it fosters. All assignments in this class are to be completed in accordance with the Columbia College Honor Code, as specified in the Columbia University Guide to Academic Integrity. Barnard College
students commit themselves to the Honor Code upon registering for a Columbia course.

Academic Accommodations:
If you believe you may encounter barriers to the academic environment due to a documented disability or emerging health challenges, please contact the Columbia Office of Disability Services (DS). If you are a student with a documented disability and require academic accommodations in this course, you must register with Disability Services for assistance. If you are already registered with DS, please contact me to discuss your accommodations for this course.

**TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE**

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<th>DATE</th>
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<th>ASSIGNMENT DUE</th>
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<td>Week 1: 1/24</td>
<td>Class Introduction</td>
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<td>Week 2: 1/31</td>
<td>Introduction to Developmental Psychopathology</td>
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<td>Week 3: 2/07</td>
<td>Risk Factors &amp; Prevention</td>
<td>Memoir Selection</td>
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<td>Clinical Assessment &amp; Diagnosis</td>
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<td>Week 7: 3/07</td>
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<td>Final Paper Topic Proposal</td>
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<td>Week 9: 3/21</td>
<td>ADHD</td>
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<td>Week 10: 3/28</td>
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<td>Week 11: 4/04</td>
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<td>Week 13: 4/18</td>
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<td>Wed. 5/04</td>
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<td>Final Paper</td>
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CLASS READINGS

Week 1 (1/24): Course Introduction
N/A – no readings

Week 2 (1/31): Introduction to Developmental Psychopathology: History & Theories
Required Readings:

Week 3 (2/07): Risk Factors & Prevention
Required Readings:
- WN Textbook: Chapter 2; Chap. 5 p. 100-103 (section on Prevention)

Supplemental Readings:
- Textbook: WN Chap. 3 p. 47-59 (section on family context, maltreatment, and divorce)

Week 4 (2/14): Clinical Assessment & Diagnosis
Required Readings:
- WN Textbook: Chapter 5
- Alakortes, J., Kovaniemi, S., Carter, A. S., Bloigu, R., Moilanen, I. K., & Ebeling, H. E. (2017). Do child healthcare professionals and parents recognize social-emotional and


**Week 5 (2/21): Book Club**

- Read the memoir you’ve selected

**Week 6 (2/28): Anxiety Disorders**

**Required Readings:**


**Supplemental Reading:**


**Week 7 (3/07): Mood Disorders**

**Required Readings:**

- WN Textbook: Chapter 7 – Mood Disorders


**Supplemental Readings:**

Week 8 (3/14): SPRING BREAK

Week 9 (3/21): ADHD

Required Readings:


Supplemental Reading:


Week 10 (3/28): Conduct Disorders

Required Readings:


Supplemental Reading:


Week 11: Autism Spectrum Disorders
Required Readings:


Supplemental:


**Week 12: Learning Disorders**

Required Readings:

- WN Textbook: Chapter 10

Supplemental:


**MEMOIR OPTIONS**


**GUIDELINES FOR FINAL PAPER**

**Overview:**
The final paper will provide a review of contemporary research in one area of developmental psychopathology. Choose an area of interest and critically review and analyze the research literature investigating your chosen topic. At least 10 scholarly works (peer-reviewed journal articles) must be cited. Papers must be written in accordance with APA style guidelines and should be no longer than 15 pages (not including title page, abstract, and references). A list of sample discussion papers that may help you structure your paper appears below.

**Resources:**
- General guidelines on how to write a literature review paper: [Writing a Psychology Lit Review](#)
- Overview on writing research papers: [Thinking It Through](#)
- Sample Discussion Articles:

**Topic Proposal (10 Points):**
Prepare an abstract that summarizes the thesis of your paper. Be sure to include a title and a preliminary bibliography (list of references you plan to use in your paper). The abstract should range between 90-150 words.

Sample abstract:

*A large percentage of children with developmental disabilities exhibit sleep problems such as difficulty in falling asleep, night waking, excessive day sleeping, and co-sleeping. The adverse effects of sleep problems on both the children and their families, and parent’s desire for drug-free sleep treatment options, have spurred the development of a number of behavioral treatments for these sleep problems. This paper will review the major behavioral interventions of the last twenty years for treatment of sleep problems experienced by children with developmental disabilities. Interventions include bedtime fading, response cost, reinforcement, extinction, sleep scheduling, bedtime routines, and*
behavioral skills training of both children and parents. Noted effectiveness and drawbacks of each intervention will be discussed.

Paper Outline (10 pts.):
Construct an outline for your final paper. It should begin with an introduction to the topic, followed by specific sections building up to the thesis of your paper, ending with a concise conclusion. A sample outline will be posted on Canvas.

General organizational style: (This is a suggested, general outline. You may of course vary yours, please review sample papers as guides.)

I. Background information
II. Central topic/question/issue (should be specific)
III. Summary of literature (should have subsections)
IV. Conclusions & Future Directions

Sample Paper Topics:
- Girls, Interrupted A Review of the Impact of Social Media on Female Adolescent Body Image and Disordered Eating
- Psychosocial Interventions on Comorbid Depression and Anxiety Disorders in Youth
- The Impact of Fear Appeals in Youth-Directed Antidrug Campaigns on Youth
- The Effectiveness of Music Therapy During Child Hospitalization
- Pathways Between Childhood Experience and Later Criminal/Antisocial Behavior
- The Effects of SSRIs and SNRIs On Children And Adolescents With Anxiety
- ARC Framework Intervention for Complex Trauma in Children in Foster Care
- A Comprehensive Review on Incorporating Play Therapy into the Treatment for Children
- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and Memory Function
- Adverse Childhood Experiences and Consequences on Health, Well-Being, and Future
- A Review of Treatment Options for Pediatric OCD: CBT and SSRIs