
UNDERSTANDING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT in Fall 2019 (PY2013)

Course Code	PY2013	Professor(s)	Jens Brockmeier
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	PL-102
Class Schedule	T: 15:20-18:15 in PL-4	Office Hours	by appointment
Credits	4	Email	jbrockmeier@aup.edu
Semester	Fall 2019	Office Tel. Ext.	

Course Description

The course is an introduction to developmental psychology. From various points of view it explores the key question *What is and how can we understand human development?* It engages with central issues of developmental psychology – through the work of influential psychologists such as Jean Piaget, Lev Vygotsky, E. Erikson, Jerome Bruner, Michael Cole, and Michael Tomasello, among others – and puts them into cross- and interdisciplinary contexts. These contexts include cultural and sociocultural, narrative, and critical psychology; evolutionary theory; history; anthropology; and philosophy. Beyond the scientific and conceptual domain, the course also investigates phenomena of human development in literature, arts, and film.

PY1000 is strongly recommended as a prerequisite.

Course Learning Outcomes

Students are encouraged to critically think through different notions and models of human development and its investigation in psychology and other disciplines.

Develop an understanding of the complexities of humans' life-long development in time, culture, and history.

General Education

Course Outline

Textbooks

Title	Author	Publisher	ISBN	Required
The sense of an ending (pb)	Julian Barnes	Vintage/Knopf/Cape	9780099564973	Yes

Attendance Policy

AUP Attendance Policy

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR, AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK, RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.

Absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an "F" for the course. An instructor may recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.

Class Attendance and Participation Policy

- Students are expected to attend every class.
- Students who miss a class for medical reasons are expected to provide formal

documentation.

- Students who miss a number of classes, regardless of the reason, are expected to provide make-up material.
- Students who miss more than three classes should expect a lower final grade.
- Students who miss more than four classes should expect to receive an F.
- If students have agreed to give a presentation in class and do not show up at the agreed date without informing me at least a day in advance, a full letter grade will be deducted (even if they provide make-up material).
- If students are habitually late to class, late arrivals will count as absences.
- Assignments must be completed by the date indicated on the syllabus. Electronic submissions of papers are not acceptable.
- Participation means active participation, that is, students are expected to make relevant and thoughtful contributions to class discussion and activities, which contributes to 15 % of the final grade.
- During classes, students are expected to respectfully turn off cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices.

Grading Policy

GRADING

Course requirements will contribute the following portions to your grade:

Final paper	40%
Presentation	30%
Thought papers	15%
Attendance and participation	15%

Other

Thought Papers - Presentation - Final Paper

Thought papers

- Students are required to write and submit five thought (or reflection or response) papers. Thought papers are on self-chosen issues or problems addressed in (1) the readings, (2) films, (3) the visit of the Museum, or (4) in special events such as lectures.
- The last of these thought papers (5) presents an outline of the final class paper and is to be handed in at least two weeks before the end of class.
- These thought papers are between one paragraph and one page, have a title or subject line, and are meant to give me a sense of how the readings and class discussions speak to you and what you think about them.
- Thought papers are only accepted as hard copies. They must be handed in at the beginning of the class after the reading (or film or any related issue) was discussed. Thought papers submitted later than two weeks will not be accepted.
- Each thought paper contributes to about 3 % of the final mark.

Presentation

- Students will give one class presentation of 10-15 minutes on a theme based on the assigned readings according to the class schedule. The presentation is meant to initiate a discussion.

Final Paper

- The final paper (of 8 pages) deals with self-chosen issues or problems that are addressed in the readings, films, visits of special locations, or class discussions. It can, but does not have to, be based on the student's presentation. It demonstrates that its author is able to represent an issue, a position, or a problem, and to discuss it.
- Due date for papers is the 13th December 2019, 3:30 (at the "Final exam"). Only hard copies of the final essays are accepted.
- They can be handed in earlier, but if they are submitted later the grade for the paper will be lowered, the extent dependent on how late it is (which can go as far as "No Credit").
- In case of "emergency" with your presentation or paper, please contact me at the first moment possible. If you have questions or problems with your paper or an assignment, please talk to me about it early enough so that we can find a solution.