
UNDERSTANDING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT in Fall 2020 (PY2013)

Course Code	PY2013	Professor(s)	Jens Brockmeier
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	PL-102
Class Schedule	T: 16:20-19:45 in PL-1	Office Hours	
Credits	4	Email	jbrockmeier@aup.edu
Semester	Fall 2020	Office Tel. Ext.	

Course Description

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

Schedule of Topics and Readings

Classes typically consist of a combination of lectures, discussions, student presentations, group work in different formats, film screenings and discussions, and museum visits. There also might be presentations of guest speakers and visits to departmental or AUP lectures and symposia. The schedule is flexible and subject to change. Written copies of the detailed schedule will be handed out in the first class.

Textbooks

This course doesn't have any textbook.

Attendance Policy

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. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

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.

Covid-19 temporary amendments. Students studying at The American University of Paris are still expected to attend ALL scheduled classes. Due to special circumstances related to the Covid-19 pandemic, students will have the option of attending some classes online either in a synchronous or asynchronous format. In general, students are expected to attend at least one class a week in a synchronous format by either being physically present or logged in via the TEAMS online platform during class. It is still the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus.

English Language Proficiency Statement. As an Anglophone university, The American University of Paris is strongly committed to effective English language mastery at the undergraduate level. Most courses require scholarly research and formal written and oral

presentations in English, and AUP students are expected to strive to achieve excellence in these domains as part of their course work. To that end, professors include English proficiency among the criteria in student evaluation, often referring students to the university Writing Lab where they may obtain help on specific academic assignments. Proficiency in English is monitored at various points throughout the student's academic career, most notably during the admissions and advising processes, while the student is completing general education requirements, and during the accomplishment of degree program courses and senior theses.

Academic Dishonesty. Please take the time to learn about academic dishonesty and plagiarism. Plagiarism includes handing in work that is not your own and cutting and pasting passages (from the internet, journals, books, etc.) without citing the original source. These are very serious academic offenses and could lead to an “F” in the course, suspension, or expulsion from the university. If plagiarism is detected (among others, by appropriate technologies), the least serious consequence is failing the course. Helpful advice on avoiding plagiarism and related AUP policy can be found at <http://www.ac.aup.edu/~writelab/>.

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 paper

- 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) discussions in class, or (4) in special events such as lectures or museum visits.

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- 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 about one paragraph / half a page max.; they have a short 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 word documents sent as email attachments. They must be handed in within a week, that is, before the next 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 essay deals with self-chosen issues or problems that are addressed in the readings, presentations, films, 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.
- The final essay has 8 pages. On the front page, it lists a title, the name of the author and his or her student number, the name of the class, and the semester it was taught. It includes a short abstract, a list of references, and is in APA style (that is, double spaced).
- Due date for papers is December 16 (at the "Final exam"). Due to the present extraordinary situation, all final essays are submitted as word documents by email attachment.
- 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.