



**Peru State College  
PSYC 250 – Human Growth & Development**

Syllabus Summer 2011Online

**Instructor:** Laura Roberts  
**Contact Hours:** Online Virtual Office - email checked regularly 7 days a week  
**Contact Number:** Monday – Thursday 1-888-258-5558  
Nights/Weekends 402-850-5560 or 402-274-8530

**Email Address:** lroberts@peru.edu

**Course Meets:** Online  
**Required Textbook:** **Exploring Lifespan Development, Laura Beck, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, Copyright 2008.**

**Peru State College Goals**

The shared goals of all PSC faculty are to instill in our students:

- effective communication skills
- computer and information literacy
- independent critical thought and intellectual capacity for change
- preparation to assume social and civic leadership roles
- the ability to pursue intellectually, ethically, aesthetically, and physically rewarding lives.

**Course Description**

This course will focus on the physical, cognitive, social and emotional aspects of growth throughout the lifespan and examine factors thought to influence this growth.

**Course Objectives**

**Upon completion of this course students should be able to:**

1. Interpret the theories and methods of research in human development (1.1.1), (1.2.3), (1.3.1);
2. Illustrate how human life is formed and developed during the pre-natal period (1.1.1), (1.3.1);

3. Demonstrate how physical, cognitive and psychosocial development occurs across diverse cultural groups from birth through young adulthood (1.1.1), (1.2.3), (1.3.1), [2.11], [2.12], [2.13], [2.21];
4. Research and evaluate professional articles located on the internet and in current educational and human development journals (1.1.1), (1.3.1), (1.3.6);
5. Appraise the importance of course material for future usefulness in career development (1.1.1), (1.3.1).

**Instruction Method/Mode of Delivery:** online course delivery, online discussion groups, and independent research

### **Check Your Acornmail Often!**

Much of my correspondence with you will be via PSC Acornmail. You automatically have an account created for you and check it often—daily would be a good habit to get into.

### **Academic Honesty**

Unless directed otherwise, students are expected to do their own work on assignments and examinations. Academic dishonesty will result in actions in accordance with the college's disciplinary policy and may also result in loss of credit for the assignment or course.

### **Student Assistance and Reasonable Accommodations**

Students with special needs are encouraged to make them known to the instructor at the beginning of the course. In accordance with law and the policies of the college, reasonable accommodations will be provided for students with documented disabilities.

### **Course Decorum**

In order to foster a climate conducive to learning, please join me in treating your classmates with respect. A part of your grade will be based on your demonstrated ability to evaluate and critique the reasoning of others in a mature, thoughtful, and respectful manner.

### **Student Requirements/Assignments**

To successfully complete the course, each student should:

- become thoroughly familiar with the course syllabus and all materials related to course expectations and schedules, seeking clarification immediately for any uncertainties;
  - allot time to work regularly throughout the term in order to keep up with the assignments as the course progresses and participate regularly in discussions;
  - communicate via the electronic course medium in a manner that consistently demonstrates positive regard for others;
  - read assigned chapters and supporting materials;
  - complete all assignments on time meeting the appropriate deadlines.
1. Participation points result from the activity on the discussion board (Weeks 1-8).  
**You must post one original answer to the discussion board each week by FRIDAY**

and **respond twice** to your peers' posting each week by **SUNDAY**. **The weekly discussion board is worth 15 points. I will not take late postings!!** Your postings will receive credit only if they contain substance related to the topic. Replies that merely express agreement or disagreement, encouragement, etc., will not receive credit unless they also contain additional thoughts that build upon the discussion. **Do not use texting formatting!**

The Week Six writing assignment is worth **100 points** and is due by **Sunday of Week Six**.

**The topic of the paper is birth order and its effect on self-esteem, how do these factors play in your life.**

Many people believe that their position as the eldest, middle, youngest, or only child in their family affected their personality in some way. Parents often muse whether their children's birth categories have affected their development. Since everyone has a birth category, it is not surprising that many people have developed their own implicit theories regarding birth order and personality. Many have probably been exposed to birth order theory, of either scientifically grounded or mythological origins (Gordon, 2002).

The purpose of the Week Six writing assignment is to determine if birth order has any effect on you and your self-esteem. You will research this topic paying special attention to **five traits that have proven to be among the most interesting to birth order dynamics – ascendancy, emotional stability, responsibility, sociability, and self-esteem.**

- The paper must be **five to seven pages** in length. **The cover page and endnote page cannot be counted as text.** You must also have an end note/reference page which does not count in the 5-7 text requirements.
  - **This assignment requires you to find five scholarly resources** which support your data.
  - **The scholarly resources must be included in the paper citing them correctly using APA formatting.**
  - The paper must be 5-7 pages long, and cited correctly using APA formatting.
  - **You cannot use your text book as a source.**
  - There is a link to an outside source **which will help you with APA.** There are also examples of what the assignments should reflect.
  - **This paper will be worth 100 points.**
- **The paper is due by midnight on Sunday of Week Six. It is worth 100 points.**

You must make sure that your references are complete and correct (See reference to APA guidelines). **Each paper must contain full reference citation information for each**

**reference following APA format.** For information on APA guidelines check the folder in Assignments labeled APA.

Please include your name in the saved file name for your paper. (Remember late work is not accepted.

2. There will be weekly 'quizzes' throughout the term. Each exam will consist of multiple choice questions. Taking the exams prior to the final date/deadline is encouraged in order to allow for time for correction of any technical difficulties that may arise. These quizzes will help to evaluate your reading of the assigned chapter(s).
3. You will also have a final exam which is worth 150 points. It will consist of multiple choice and essay questions. It will be open note, open book and will not be timed.

**Update: I also want you to know- that you must complete all the course work. If in Week Seven you feel you have already earned an A, do NOT stop turning in work. Why- I will deduct the missing assignment points for work left undone from your earned score- thus lowering your final grade**

**\*\* There are a total of 570 points for this course. \*\***

**Assessment Method:** Grades will be based on the above course requirements according to the following grading policy: This course is worth 635 points.

A	90-100%
B+	85-89%
B	80-84 %
C+	75-79 %
C	70-74%
D+	65-69%
D	60-64%
F	below 60%

### **How to Submit Course Work**

All weekly assignments are located in the "Assignments" tab of the course site.

All discussion board posts and replies should be posted to the Discussion Board.

Your Week Three Writing assignments must be submitted to the instructor via the "View/Complete Assignment" link provided in the Assignments folder. It is to be attached as a **Word document**, not typed in the "comments" box. You can view your individual feedback using the grade book. Simply 'click' on the grade you would like to see comments and it will provide an "Instructor's Comments" section.

To complete your quizzes, you simply select the link and the quiz will be generated. **You will have to take the test when you log into it. We will not allow you to view the test**

**and take it at a later date.** Questions are randomly selected from a pool of possibilities. Your quiz will be automatically graded for you. Any discrepancies you may have, please notify me of the specific question and why you believe your answer to be the *best* choice. Plausible justification of your individual incorrect answers may earn credited points back to your score.

**You must observe all due dates in order to be successful in this course.** Since we are on a fast-paced eight-week schedule, it is critical that you keep up with your weekly readings and assignments. Please keep a copy of all of your course work, just in case there is a technical problem that requires you to re-submit an assignment or posting. **Assignments, including discussion board questions, are expected to be written thoroughly, using paragraph form and complete sentences (along with proper grammar and punctuation). Grading rubrics are provided. APA format is required for the Week Six Writing Assignment.**

### **Assignments Submitted After the Due Dates**

The due date associated with each assignment and examination is definitive and will not be waived or excused except in extraordinary circumstances. **Assignments received late will receive zero (0) points unless there are extraordinary circumstances.** It is therefore critical that you keep up with your reading and coursework. If you anticipate being unavailable for some portion of the semester, you may complete your work ahead.

### **Announcements and Student Questions**

In addition to the Weekly Announcements that I will post on the front page of Blackboard, I have created a special discussion board forum for announcements and student questions. It is the first one on the discussion board page and it is titled: "Acorn Inn." This is where I will post comments and feedback to questions about the course materials and weekly assignments. My preference is that you post your questions to this forum so that all students see your questions and the answers I have provided. However, if you prefer to email me your question privately, you may do so and I will respond to you by private email. I will respond to all emailed and posted questions within 24 hours following your correspondence, unless I notify you that I will be without Internet access for an extended amount of time.

### **Modification of Course Syllabus and Course Schedule**

The instructor reserves the right to modify any part of this course syllabus and course schedule. Any such modifications will be communicated to students in advance of becoming effective. *(The tentative course schedule can be found on the following page.)*

#### **Course Schedule**

<b><u>Week</u></b>	<b><u>Assigned Reading</u></b>	<b><u>Assignment(s) Due</u></b>	
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Week 1	Chapters 1, 2,& 3	1) Discussion Board – Week 1 2) Chapter Quiz 3) Introduction
Week 2	Chapters 4, 5, & 6	1) Discussion Board – Week 2 2) Quiz
Week 3	Chapters 7 & 8	1) Discussion Board – Week 3 2) Quiz
Week 4	Chapters 9 & 10	1) Discussion Board – Week 4 2) Quiz
Week 5	Chapters 11 & 12	1) Discussion Board – Week 5 2) Quiz
Week 6	Chapters 13 & 14	1) Discussion Board – Week 6 2) Writing Assignment
Week 7	Chapters 15 & 16	1) Discussion Board – Week 7 2) Quiz
Week 8	Comprehensive Final Exam covering the course.150 points	1) Discussion Board – Week 8 2) Extra Credit Discussion Board 3) Final Exam

**\*\*\*\* All Original Discussion Board posts are due on Friday- replies and tests are due by Sunday at Midnight except Week 8 when all work is due by midnight on Wednesday.\*\***

### College's Incomplete Coursework Policy

To designate a student's work in a course as incomplete at the end of a term, the instructor records the incomplete grade (I). Students may receive this grade only when serious illness, hardship, death in the immediate family, or military service during the semester in which they are registered prevents them from completing course requirements. In addition, to receive an incomplete, a student must have completed substantially all of the course's major requirements.

Unless extenuating circumstances dictate otherwise, students must initiate requests for an incomplete by filling out an Incomplete Grade Completion Contract, which requires the signature of the student, instructor, and Dean. The Incomplete Grade Completion contract cites the reason(s) for the incomplete and details the specific obligations the student must meet to change the incomplete to a letter grade. The date by which the student agrees to complete required work must appear in the contract. The Dean, the instructor, and the student receive signed copies of the Incomplete Grade Completion Contract.

Even if the student does not attend Peru State College, all incomplete course work must be finished by the end of the subsequent semester. Unless the appropriate Dean approves an extension and if the student does not fulfill contract obligations in the allotted time, the incomplete grade automatically becomes an F.

### College's Academic Integrity Policy

The College expects all students to conduct themselves in a manner that supports an honest assessment of student learning outcomes and the assignment of grades that appropriately reflect student performance. It is ultimately the student's responsibility to understand and comply with instructions regarding the completion of assignments, exams, and other academic activities. At a minimum, students should assume that at each assessment opportunity they are expected to do their own original academic work and/or clearly acknowledge in an appropriate fashion the intellectual work of others, when such contributions are allowed. Students helping others to circumvent honest assessments of learning outcomes, or who fail to report instances of academic dishonesty, are also subject to the sanctions defined in this policy.

Instances of academic dishonesty may be discovered in a variety of ways. Faculty members who assign written work ordinarily check citations for accuracy, run data base and online checks, and/or may simply recognize familiar passages that are not cited. They may observe students in the act of cheating or may become aware of instances of cheating from the statements of others. All persons who observe or otherwise know about instances of cheating are expected to report such instances to the proper instructor or Dean.

**In order to promote academic integrity, the College subscribes to an electronic service to review papers for the appropriate citations and originality. Key elements of submitted papers are stored electronically in a limited access database and thus become a permanent part of the material to which future submissions are compared. Submission of an application and continued enrollment signifies your permission for this use of your written work.**

Should an occurrence of academic misconduct occur, the faculty member may assign a failing grade for the assignment or a failing grade for the course. Each incident of academic misconduct should be reported to the Dean and the Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA). The VPAA may suspend students for two semesters found to be responsible for multiple instances of academic dishonesty. The reason for the suspension will be noted on the student's transcript.

A faculty member need present only basic evidence of academic dishonesty. There is no requirement for proof of intent. Students are responsible for understanding

these tenets of academic honesty and integrity. Students may appeal penalties for academic dishonesty using the process established for grades appeals.

### **Title IX Compliance Notice**

Peru State College is an equal opportunity institution. PSC does not discriminate against any student, employee or applicant on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, or age in employment and education opportunities, including but not limited to admission decisions. The College has designated an individual to coordinate the College's nondiscrimination efforts to comply with regulations implementing Title VI, VII, IX, and Section 504. Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies and practices may be directed to Eulanda Cade, Director of Human Resources, Title VI, VII, IX Compliance Coordinator, Peru State College, PO Box 10, Peru, NE 68421-0010, (402) 872-2230.

Students requesting reasonable accommodation and tutoring services should contact the Center for Achievement and Transition Services (CATS).