

RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE

PSYC – 216 CHILD PSYCHOLOGY

I. Basic Course Information

- A. Course Number and Title: PSYC 216 – Child Psychology
- B. New or Modified Course: Modified
- C. Date of Proposal: Spring 2021
- D. Effective Term: Fall 2021
- E. Sponsoring Department: Humanities, Social Sciences, Social Work, and Education
- F. Semester Credit Hours: 3
- G. Weekly Contact Hours: Lecture: 3
 Laboratory: 0
 Out of class student work per week: 6
- H. Prerequisites/Corequisites: PSYC 103 - Introduction to Psychology
- I. Laboratory Fees: None
- J. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair and Divisional Dean at time of approval:
Department Chair: Dr. Isabel T. Gutierrez-Bergman, isabel.gutierrez@raritanval.edu
Divisional Dean: Dr. Patrice Marks, patrice.marks@raritanval.edu

II. Catalog Description

Prerequisite: PSYC 103 - Introduction to Psychology

This course focuses on the physical, psychological, cognitive, emotional, and social developmental changes from conception until the beginning of adolescence. This course will be infused with relevant contributions made within the fields of biology, history, sociology, and anthropology. Topics include, but are not limited to, biological development including prenatal development and birth; motor, sensory, and perceptual development; cognitive development including information processing, intelligence, and language development; socioemotional development; moral

development; the influence of gender, the family, school, and peer groups; the influence of culture and diversity on the developing child.

III. Statement of Course Need

- A. This course is a standard course offered at virtually all community colleges, four-year colleges and universities.
- B. This course meets a program option for the education: P-12, A.A.
- C. This course is a standard elective which meets the needs of those students who are seeking a degree in education, particularly focusing on the specific time frame of pre-school to middle school.
- D. This course generally transfers as a psychology elective, social science elective, or a free elective.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

- A. Free Elective
- B. Required or recommended course for A.A.: P-12, depending on the option.
- C. Serves as a Social Science elective for the Social Sciences, A.A.
- D. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org; b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

V. Outline of Course Content

This course will cover the following topics:

- A. Biological Beginnings
- B. Prenatal Development and Birth
- C. Physical Development and Health
- D. Motor, Sensory and Perceptual Development
- E. Cognitive Development including information processing and intelligence
- F. Language Development
- G. Emotional Development
- H. Identity Development
- I. Gender Development
- J. Moral Development
- K. Families and Peers
- L. Schools and Achievement
- M. Culture and Diversity

VI. General Education and Course Learning Outcomes

A. General Education Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Apply the steps of the scientific method (GE-NJ 3, *).
2. Identify and critically evaluate information presented in the text and a variety of sources (including scholarly articles) by using scientific and psychology principles. (GE-NJ 5, IL, *)
3. Apply the principles of developmental theorists in psychology to real world situations (GE-NJ 5, *).
4. Identify and describe cultural influences in the development of a child (GE-NJ 8, *).
5. Demonstrate an understanding of the APA writing style necessary to write reports, papers, and essays (GE-NJ 1, 4, IL, *).

(* Embedded Critical Thinking)

B. Course Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the fundamental changes that take place in infancy and childhood. These include biological, cognitive, and social changes.
2. Explain the role of prenatal development and the birthing process.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the various changes in motor, sensory and perceptual development.
4. Compare and contrast the theories of cognitive and moral development
5. Describe the development of language and intelligence during childhood years.
6. Evaluate the changes in socioemotional development in children.
7. Evaluate the theories of identity and gender development.
8. Explain the role of family, schools, peers, and culture on the development of a child.

C. Assessment Instruments

1. Lecture/discussion
2. Reaction and research papers
3. Oral presentations
4. Peer group work
5. Exams
6. Student collaboration

VII. Grade Determinants

- A. Reaction papers
- B. Research paper
- C. Presentations
- D. Exams/Quizzes
- E. Participation

The primary formats, modes, and methods for teaching and learning that may be used in the course:

- A. lecture/discussion
- B. small-group work
- C. guest speakers
- D. computer-assisted instruction
- E. student oral presentations
- F. student collaboration
- G. videos that enhance knowledge of material

VIII. Texts and Materials

A standard child psychology textbook will be required. The current required textbook for this course is:

Santrock, J.W., Deater-Deckard, K., & Lansford, J.E. (2021). *Child Development* (15th edition). New York, NY: McGraw-Hill.

Additional materials may be required by individual instructors such as articles and videos.

(Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.)

IX. Resources

- A. Library Databases
- B. Other computer-based resources (e.g., websites, links, and videos)
- C. Various journal and applicable articles