PSYC3206 – Developmental Psychology

Unit of Study Code: PSYC3206

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Format of Unit: 2 x 1 hour lectures/week x 15 weeks
1 x 1 hour tutorial/week x 12 weeks
Tutorial sizes: maximum of 20 students per group

Credit Point Value: 4 Credit Points

Qualifying: 8 credit points of Intermediate Psychology

Assessment:
Classwork:
30% TWO class quizzes
Week 7: 9 April to 12 April
Week 13: 28 May to 31 May

Examination:
70% : Essay questions

Evaluation of teaching and learning:
Date: week 13 of semester
Type: CTL General Student Feedback Questionnaire

Unit of study general description:

PSYC 3206 examines the theoretical bases of human development and selected issues within Developmental Psychology. In the first part of the unit the major issues/controversies in Developmental Theory are examined in relation to a number of the more influential theoretical approaches. Students are expected to gain an understanding of the main theoretical influences upon current developmental research and to be able to compare and contrast theories of development. Theories of cognitive development will be examined in somewhat more depth.

The second part of the unit introduces students to a range of issues in selected areas of contemporary Developmental Psychology. Students are expected to gain knowledge of these areas, and to develop a critical approach to the analysis of current research and theoretical issues.

The tutorial program will include practical exercises where students will be expected to collect data on children of various ages.

Draft Unit outline
Theoretical Bases of Development
1. Issues in Developmental theory
2. Theories of development: Normative-Descriptive approach; Learning Theory applied to development; Erikson's Psychosocial Theory; Kohlberg's cognitive theory of moral development; Vygotsky's Contextual approach; The ethological approach.
3. Theories of Cognitive Development - Piagetian approach, Information processing approach
Developmental Issues
1. Social Development: Attachment and social cognition
2. Social development: gender identity and gender role
3. The child in the legal system
4. Motor development and response control

Teaching outcomes:
1. Ability to describe, explain and evaluate major issues and controversies that distinguish various theoretical approaches to Developmental Psychology.
2. Ability to describe, explain and evaluate each of a number of theoretical approaches to Developmental Psychology and to critically compare and contrast these approaches.
3. Ability to describe, explain and evaluate theories of cognitive development and the research evidence cited as support for these theoretical approaches.
4. Ability to describe, explain, evaluate and apply theoretical models and research studies relevant to social development in the areas of attachment, social cognition, gender identity and gender role.
5. Ability to describe, explain, evaluate and apply theoretical models and research studies relevant to examination of children in the legal system.
6. Ability to describe, explain, evaluate and apply theoretical models and research studies relevant to motor development.
7. Ability to describe, explain, evaluate and apply theoretical models and research studies relevant to the development of response inhibition and other ‘executive function’.

Evidence of learning:
Assessment will take the form of: (1) a written examination which will cover the full range of teaching outcomes and (2) class quizzes covering material examined in tutorials.

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**DRAFT TIMETABLE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>LECTURES</th>
<th>LECTURER</th>
<th>TUTORIALS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | 1 Issues in developmental theory  
2 Theories of development | Livesey  
Livesey | No Meeting |
| 2    | 3 Theories of development  
4 Theories of development | Livesey  
Livesey | Developmental theory |
| 3    | 5 Theories of development  
6 Theories of development | Livesey  
Livesey | Developmental research methods |
| 4    | 7 Theories of development  
8 Theories of cognitive development | Livesey  
Howie | Moral development |
| 5    | 9 Theories of cognitive development  
10 Theories of cognitive development | Howie  
Howie | Piaget’s theory |
| 6    | 11 Theories of cognitive development  
12 Theories of cognitive development | Howie  
Howie | Cognitive development |
| 7    | 13 Social-emotional development  
14 Social-emotional development | Howie  
Howie | Quiz 1 |
| 8    | 15 Social-emotional development  
16 Social-emotional development | Howie  
Howie | Attachment |
| 9    | 17 Children in the legal system  
18 Children in the legal system | Howie  
Howie | Gender |
| 10   | 19 Children in the legal system  
20 Children in the legal system | Howie  
Howie | Child testimony |
| 11   | 21 Motor development  
22 Motor development | Livesey  
Livesey | Motor Development |
| 12   | 23 Motor development  
24 Motor development | Livesey  
Livesey | Motor Development |
| 13   | 25 Motor development  
26 Development of 'executive function' | Livesey  
Livesey | Quiz 2 |

TEXT

RECOMMENDED READING