

## DEVELOPMENT DURING INFANCY AND CHILDHOOD FCS 3215 (PSYCH 3215)

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### Learn the answers to the following questions:

- Can the fetus see and hear before it is born?
- What can harm a baby during pregnancy?
- How do children learn to talk?
- What effects does television have on children?
- Are boys more aggressive than girls?
- What will motivate children to work on homework?

**Course Objectives:** The primary goal of this course is to introduce students to the field of child development from conception to middle childhood. This course emphasizes normal physical, cognitive, and social development and the interrelations among these aspects of development. We will also examine how various ecological systems influence development. This course will encourage you to critically examine both your personal experiences and the empirical literature on human development. This course will also encourage you to apply the information you learn to real life situations with children.

**Service Learning IS REQUIRED FOR this section of 3215! Service learning is a great way to learn – it provides hands-on learning – see the course concepts in action each week – learn the material better than simply memorizing facts – apply it to real life situations as you serve at-risk children.** Students report at the end of the semester that they loved this type of learning – it is so much more interesting than rote memorization. But it does require a 3 hour time commitment each week. You will volunteer 3 hours per week (outside of class time) with at-risk children through one of several community agencies that I identify (e.g., The Children’s Center, Horizonte, Early Literacy First, Neighborhood House, etc.). Each week you will write a one-page thought paper connecting the course information to what you have observed at your volunteer placement. If you don’t want to do/can’t do service learning, please register for a different section of 3215. But the extra time is worth it, I promise!

### Tentative Course Requirements

1. Three exams. (20% each)
2. Participation and contributions to class discussions and reflection sessions. (10%)

3. 3 hours of service weekly working with at-risk children and a weekly one page thought paper, evaluation by your community partner (30%)

Please contact me at [marissa.diener@fcs.utah.edu](mailto:marissa.diener@fcs.utah.edu) if you have questions about the course.