




# Psychology (PSYC) 323

## Developmental Psychology (Revision 9)

**Status:** Replaced with new revision, see the [course listing](#)  for the current revision 

**Delivery mode:** [Individualized study online](#)  with [eText](#) 

**Credits:** 3

**Areas of study:** Arts or Social Science

**Prerequisites:** **PSYC 290** is strongly recommended but not required.

**Precluded:** PSYC 228 (PSYC 323 may not be taken for credit if credit has already been obtained for PSYC 228.)

**Challenge:** PSYC 323 has a challenge for credit option.

**Faculty:** [Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences](#) 

# Overview

PSYC 323 studies the basic concepts and mechanisms inherent in the process of human development from conception to adolescence. This course describes the nature and context of development, as well as the research methods used to study human development. The course examines the biological, cognitive, social, emotional, and moral aspects of development through various theoretical models. The major emphasis is on typical growth and development.

## Outline

### **Unit 1: The Nature of Child Development**

- Chapter 1: Introduction

### **Unit 2: Biological Processes and Physical Development**

- Chapter 2: Biological Beginnings and Prenatal Development
- Chapter 3: Birth, Physical Development, and Health

### **Unit 3: Cognition, Perceptual Development, and Language**

- Chapter 4: Cognitive Developmental Approaches
- Chapter 5: Motor, Sensory, and Perceptual Development
- Chapter 6: Information Processing
- Chapter 7: Intelligence
- Chapter 8: Language Development

### **Unit 4: Socioemotional Development**

- Chapter 9: Emotional Development
- Chapter 10: The Self and Identity
- Chapter 11: Gender
- Chapter 12: Moral Development

### **Unit 5: Social Contexts of Development**



- Chapter 13: Families, Peers, and Schools
- Chapter 14: Culture, Diversity, and Mental Health

## Learning outcomes

At the end of this course, students will be able to


- apply the tools, mechanisms, and processes of critical thinking consciously and systematically to produce organized, systematic, and dependably sound academic written work related to the discipline,
- analyze the different aspects and periods of development (prenatal, infancy, early childhood, middle and late childhood) and its different contexts (cognitive, biological/physical, socioemotional),
- investigate the growth patterns for infancy and childhood,
- interpret the main concepts of child development according to each theorist/theory discussed in the course,
- discuss the different characteristics of each developmental theorist/theory,
- assess behaviour objectively in accordance with the theories and principles of development, and
- evaluate the developmental theories (Piaget, Vygotsky, Information Processing, Ainsworth, Bowlby, Kohlberg, Freud) in the context of child development.

## Evaluation

To **receive credit**  for PSYC 323, you must complete two tutorial quizzes, one minor assignment, one major project, and a final assessment. You must achieve a course composite grade of at least **D (50 percent)**  and a grade of at least 50 percent on the final assessment. The weighting of the composite grade is as follows:

Activity	Weight
Two Tutorial Quizzes (5% each)	10%
Minor Assignment	20%



Activity	Weight
Major Project	35%
Final Assessment	35%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University's [online Calendar](#) .

## Materials

Santrock, J. W., Deater-Deckard, K., Lansford, J. E., Piercy, J., & Rosati, A. (2022). *Child development* (2nd Canadian ed.). McGraw Hill.  (eText)

### eText

Registration in this course includes an electronic textbook. For more information on [electronic textbooks](#) , please refer to our [eText Initiative site](#) .

### Other Resources

All other learning resources will be available online.



## Challenge for credit

### Overview

The challenge for credit process allows you to demonstrate that you have acquired a command of the general subject matter, knowledge, intellectual and/or other skills that would normally be found in a university-level course.

Full information about [challenge for credit](#)  can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar.





### Evaluation

To **receive credit**  for the PSYC 323 challenge registration, you must achieve a grade of at least 50 percent on the exam and obtain a composite mark of at least **D (50 percent)**  to pass.

Activity	Weight
Research Paper	40%
Exam	60%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

 [Challenge for credit course registration form](#)

## Important links

- > [Academic advising](#) 
- > [Program planning](#) 
- > [Request assistance](#) 
- > [Support services](#) 

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

*Opened in Revision 9, October 26, 2023*

*Updated February 26, 2024*

View [previous revision](#) 