

Study Guide

SASS 440. Human Development In Context I: Child And Adolescent

Course Description

This foundation course examines theories and research on biological, social, cultural, and spiritual development from infancy through adolescence. Particular consideration is given to biological, emotional, cognitive, behavioral, and environmental influences and their contributions to child and adolescent development. Social and economic influences like poverty, discrimination and parenting styles are also considered. The course will consider how social work values, the impact and role of spirituality/culture and the perspective of empowerment relate to development. Equal consideration is given to factors supporting individual development, such as the strength of sociocultural belief systems, health, and capacity for resilience. The course stresses interactions between the individual and their environment (including family, peers, school and community), and the reciprocal relationship between the child/adolescent and their environments. This course examines concepts of life course tasks, conflicts, attachment and loss, and self-regulation. The roles of culture, class, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation/gender identity, gender, and family structure as they relate to development will be presented during this course.

The etiology of symptom formation in major developmental deficits during childhood and adolescence will be addressed, however the primary focus of this course is on the developmental achievements that are based on the completion of tasks through the child/adolescent's strengths and ability to adapt to physical, biological, and emotional events and change as well as one's ability to deal with conflict.

Course Objectives

1. To develop a knowledge base of social and environmental factors that contributes to both developmental and social-emotional growth from birth through adolescence.
2. To understand the impact of social and economic influences—poverty, discrimination, and oppression—cultural and biological factors upon growth and development from birth through adolescence.
3. To communicate an understanding of child and adolescence development and the myriad ways one is vulnerable to biological, cognitive, affective, and behavioral interactions.
4. To identify and critically evaluate how the family, groups, and communities impact child and adolescent development.

Texts: Required

Hutchison, Elizabeth D. and contributors. (2015). *Dimensions of human behavior: The changing life course*. (5th ed). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Recommended Readings

Kozol, J. (2012). *Fire in the ashes: Twenty-five years among the poorest children in America*. New York: Crown Publishers (division of Random House).