

Module Title and Code

Debates in Developmental Psychology – PSU34780

Lecturer(s)

Lorraine Swords

Contact Hours

One semester: 11 lectures; 103 hours independent study

ECTS Value

5 ECTS (=125 student hours)

Rationale and Aims

Developmental psychology is the scientific study of age-related change and consistency across the spectrum of human growth. This module aims to build upon the knowledge base students received during their Freshman years and provide a stimulating context in which to introduce them to a number of important issues that are debated in the field. Some of these issues are long-standing, some more current. The focus will be on presenting the key elements of each perspective under scrutiny and then inviting students to critically review, examine and evaluate the available information.

For whom is the module intended?

Psychology Junior & Senior Sophister

Postgraduate Conversion Course Years 1 and 2

Visiting Students

How does it fit in to the academic programme?

This module provides advanced coverage of material in some of the essential aspects of the discipline of psychology and is required to be covered by the professional accreditation body, Psychological Society of Ireland.

Is it mandatory or optional?

Optional

Are there prerequisites?

Cognate foundation modules.

From a teaching point of view, what are the intentions of the lecturer?

To expose students to all sides of key debates in developmental psychology and encourage critical thinking with regard to the evaluation of arguments from each perspective.

Course Content Includes:

- Stressed Out Kids? The Over-Scheduling Debate
- Prejudiced from Preschool? The Development of Stigma in Childhood
- Decision-Making in Pediatrics: How Should Child Patients Get Involved?
- Are Children Reliable and Credible Witnesses?
- Impressionable Young Minds? Screen Time & Child Outcomes

Indicative Resources

As this is an advanced research-led taught module, state-of-the-art and up-to-date journal articles from the relevant research literature will be made available throughout the module.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the arguments presented for each debate topic.
- Critically reflect upon and evaluate the research available, in terms of theory, methods and empirical findings.
- Synthesise arguments and formulate conclusions.

Methods of Teaching and Student Learning

The format of lectures is conventional but students are encouraged to ask questions and to engage the lecturer in discussion where practicable. Both the reduced numbers in these optional modules and the fact that the module is based in the lecturer's own area of research expertise and interest facilitates increased class discussion and debate.

Inclusive curriculum: Each lecture and any supporting and accompanying documentation is posted on our school website to facilitate independent study and self-paced learning.

Methods of Assessment

TBC

Evaluation

The module will be evaluated by students and all feedback is noted and incorporated in module design, where appropriate, for delivery in subsequent years.