Ed 20: Human Growth and Development
Undergraduate Evening Studies
Furman University, Fall 2007

Texts: The Developing Person: Through the Life Span, (Berger), any recent edition
Human Development: Annual Editions, 2007/8

Vision Statement: The teacher education program at Furman University prepares educators who are scholars and leaders.

Course Description: This course introduces students to the study of human growth and development from conception through late adulthood and death. The interrelationships among different stages of the life span and among the physical, cognitive, social and personality components of development are emphasized. The course attempts to foster students' critical thinking as it applies theory, research, and practical concerns of families and educators to important issues within each stage of development. Experiential learning opportunities are an important component of the course and include observation and interaction with individuals from the major periods of human development.

Ed 20 is being taught this term as a seminar class in which the most important components are as follows: reading of all assigned materials, participating actively in each class discussion, noting text and reading sources, and taking leadership for discussion on specific assignments. Emphasis will be on class participation and active application of knowledge to class discussion, rather than focusing on memorization and testing.

The Basics: All students are required to read the text as outline and readings as assigned. Each student is required to lead a discussion of two or more assigned readings and to compose a final essay on his/her theory of human development. Class attendance is required for seminar effectiveness. Students may not miss more than one class, without prior permission and/or makeup work. Students who complete all of the above acceptably will earn a "C" in the course.

Advanced Requirements: In order to earn a "B," students must do all of the above, plus a research report and presentation and a site visit and written report. In order to earn an "A," students must do all of the above, plus five individual observations and reports from five different stages of the lifespan. They must also read and be prepared to discuss Tuesdays with Morrie, by Albom.

Work must be deemed satisfactory to earn the given grade. Students whose work is not up to standards may be required to revise it and/or a lower grade may be assigned. Students whose work and participation is not satisfactory at any level may receive an unsatisfactory or failing grade. Evaluation is at the discretion of the instructor.

Due dates will be assigned at the second class based upon students' stated class goals.
Tentative Course Schedule

August 29: Orientation: Introductions, Materials, Expectations
Philosophies and Theories of Human Development
Organization of the Text: Biosocial Development, Cognitive
Development, Psychosocial Development
Chapters 1-2, Berger

September: 5 Prenatal Development and Birth (Video: The Miracle of Life)
Chapters 3-4
Articles 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

12 The First Two Years: Part I
Chapters 5-7
Articles 8, 10, 11
19 The First Two Years: Part II

26 The Play Years: Part I
Chapters 8-10
(Video: The Making of Sesame Street)

October: 3 The Play Years: Part II
Articles 12, 13, 14

10 The (Early) School Years
Chapters 11-13
Articles 16, 17, 19, 24

17 Early Adolescence
Chapters 14-16
Articles 22, 23, 28, 29

24 Late Adolescence
Articles 30, 31
31: Research Reports, Individual Conferences

November 7 Early Adulthood, Research Reports
Chapters 17-19
Articles 32, 34, 36

14 Middle Adulthood
Chapters 20-22
Articles 35, 37, 38

21 Late Adulthood, The Declining Years
Chapters 23-25, Epilogue
Articles 39, 41, 42, 43

28: No Formal Class, Research Night

December: 5 Course Review, Personal Philosophies of Human Development
Discussion of Tuesdays with Morrie
12: Feedback on Research, Dinner, Dutch Treat, “Caesar’s”