INTRODUCTION TO AFRICAN AMERICAN CHILD DEVELOPMENT
COURSE SYLLABUS
Spring 2015

PROFESSOR
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OFFICE & HOURS
Annenberg Rm. 107, TR 1 - 2
TBA

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CLASS HOURS
3:30-4:50 TR

LOCATION
Annenberg G22

GENERAL COURSE OBJECTIVES:
1. To expose students to a variety of important topics regarding African American child development.
2. To have students critically evaluate the perspectives and empirical evidence related to various topics.
3. To have students develop a deep structure understanding of at least one topic related to African American child development.
4. To facilitate critical thinking and argumentation skills.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Points: Dates due:
Attendance and Participation 5 Each Week ----
CT Essay #1 50 4/21
Exam #1 100 4/28
CT Essay #2 50 5/14
Exam #2 100 5/19
CT Essay #3 50 6/02
Exam #3 100 6/11 (3 – 5pm)

COURSE POLICIES:
1. Be as objective as possible. Therefore, do not be dismissive of a theory simply because of who supports or does not support it. Do not believe a theory because of who supports or does not support it.
2. Be respectful of the fact that some people are sensitive when they are in heated discussions about personally relevant topics. Don’t be sensitive when in heated discussions about personally relevant topics. This field is not for those with tissue paper feelings.

ASSIGNMENTS
1. Critical Thinking Essays- Write a 2 to 3 page critical thinking essay on 1 of the 2 or 3 topics we covered in the preceding weeks. For a great introduction and format of critical thinking Essays, go to http://www.amyglenn.com/Courses/critical.htm. Here is an excerpt:

ESSAY OUTLINE
Introduction (1-2 paragraphs)
Focus on explaining the topic.
Body (minimum of 3 paragraphs but use as many as necessary)
Examine all aspects of the topic. Show your knowledge and grasp of the material you have read.
Explain how your research influenced your thinking.
Conclusion (generally 1 or 2 paragraphs)

2. Exams - The exams will cover material from lecture and the required readings. The exams will be a combination of multiple choice, fill-in and short essay questions.
GRADING:
A = 500 - 465 (93%)  B+ = 449-435 (87%)  B- = 414-400 (80%)  C = 384-365 (73%)  D = 349-300 (60%)
A- = 464-450 (90%)  B = 434-415 (83%)  C+ = 399-385 (77%)  C- = 364-350 (70%)  F = 299 or below

COURSE READINGS:
All required readings will be in pdf format on Blackboard. The weekly schedule is below. Read the articles before coming to class. Generate questions and comments about the articles and/or the general topic for that week.

WEEKLY TOPICS & READINGS

Week 1: Physical Development

Week 2: Language Development

Weeks 3: Identity Development

Week 4: Media exposure

Week 5: Health & Nutrition


Weeks 6: Effects of SES and Family Structure


Weeks 7: Effects of Parenting


Week 8: Academic Experiences I – IQ and School Factors


Week 9: Academic Experiences II – Cultural and Personal Factors


Week 10: Review/ New Topics