I. Catalog Description and Credit Hours of Course:

An introduction to the physical, cognitive and social-emotional characteristics of children from birth through the primary grade years. (3) Credit Hours. [Required for individuals who are interested in applying for the Child Development Associate (CDA) Certification.]

II. Prerequisites: None

III. Purposes or Objectives of the Course:

The students will:

A. Explore the principles, theories, and research methods and findings of child development.

B. Investigate interrelatedness of development in various domains (e.g., cognitive, social, emotional, physical) and the continuity of development across childhood.

C. Identify the unique individual and common experiences shared by the members of various cultural groups.

D. Present information related to the development of children verbally and in writing.

IV. Expectations of Students:

A. Demonstrate comprehension of the course content on examinations.

B. Satisfactory completion of all course projects.

C. Participation in all class projects and discussions.
V. Course Outline:

A. Theories of Child Development--------------------------------------------3 hours
   1. Maturational Theory
   2. Psychoanalytical Theory
   3. Learning Theory
   4. Social Learning Theory
   5. Cognitive Developmental Theory
   6. Socio-cultural Theory

B. Methods of Studying Children-----------------------------------------------3 hours
   1. The Major Research Methods
   2. The Major Developmental Research Designs
   3. Interpreting a Research Report

C. Genetics, Prenatal Development, and Birth----------------------------------3 hours
   1. Genetics and the Environment
   2. Prenatal Development & its Risk Factors
   3. Birth & Birth Complications
   4. Problems in Early Development
      a. environmental factors
      b. maternal conditions

D. Physical Development of Neonates, Infants and Toddlers-------------------3 hours
   1. Brain Development
   2. Development of Motor Abilities
      a. fine motor, loco-motor development
      b. factors affecting physical development
   3. Ensuring Health in Infants & Toddlers
      a. common childhood diseases
      b. immunizations
      c. feeding and toilet training
      d. preventing accidents
   4. Living With Infants & Toddlers at Home and at the Early Childhood
      Programs
      a. toys and playthings for infants and toddlers

E. Cognitive Development in Infants & Toddlers-------------------------------3 hours
   1. Infants’ visual Perception
   2. Sensorimotor Intelligence & Information Processing Skills
      a. cognitive development and play
      b. play of infants and toddlers
3. Living With Infants & Toddlers at Home and at the Daycare Center
   a. infant and toddler assessment
   b. play materials and early environment (home, daycare)
   c. individual differences in early mental development

F. The Development of Language & Communication in Infants & Toddlers

   1. Communication and Language Development During the First Year
      a. speech perception and comprehension
      b. vocal production (crying, cooing & babbling)
   2. Language Development During the Second Year
      a. stages
      b. the social context of language
   3. Theories of Language Development
   4. Living With the Infants & Toddlers
      a. child care & language development
      b. promoting infant/toddler language development

G. Social & Emotional Development in Infants & Toddlers

   1. Theories of Infant & Toddler Personality
   2. Emotional Development: attachment & Theories of Infant Attachment
   3. Infant Attachment Behavior
      a. the strange situation
      b. the relationship between infant attachment & parent behavior
      c. attachment reactions: stranger anxiety & separation distress
      d. implications of early attachment
   4. The Emergence of Pro-social Behavior
      a. peer interaction among infants & toddlers
      b. temperament and development: implications for childrearing

H. Physical Development in Preschool Children

   1. Brain Development
   2. Appearance, Growth & Motor Development
      a. loco-motor skills
      b. upper body & arm skills
      c. fine motor skills
   3. Living with the preschooler at home and at Centers: factors affecting growth & health:
      a. ensuring the preschoolers health & nutritional needs
      b. communicable health problems
      c. lead poisoning
      d. sleeping and eating habits
e. ensuring the preschooler’s safety
f. toys and playthings for preschool children

I. Cognitive Development in Preschool Children------------------------4 hours

1. Characteristics of Pre-schoolers Cognitive Development
   a. understanding numbers, classification, perspective taking
2. Information Processing Skills
   a. attention and memory
   b. early literacy and mathematical development
3. Individual Differences in Mental Development
   a. home environment and mental development
   b. preschool and daycare
   c. educational TV

J. The Development of Language & Communication----------------------2 hours in Preschool Children

1. Oral Language Development
   a. language production
   b. language comprehension
2. Written Language Development
   a. understanding print
   b. figuring out how to make works with alphabet letters
3. Living With the Preschooler at Home and at School
   a. supporting language learning in early childhood

K. Social & Emotional Development in Preschool Children---------------5 hours

1. An overview of Socialization & Early Moral Development
2. Self-Development
   a. foundations of self-concept
   b. understanding intentions
   c. emergence of self-esteem
3. Emotional Development
   a. understanding emotion
   b. emotional self-regulation
   c. self-conscious emotions
   d. empathy
4. Peer Relations
   a. aggression
   b. prosocial behavior
5. Foundations of Morality
   a. learning self-control
6. Gender Typing
   a. genetic and environmental influences
   b. gender identity
   c. reducing gender stereotyping in young children
7. Child Rearing & Emotional & Social Development
   a. styles of child rearing
   b. child maltreatment and its origins
   c. consequences of child maltreatment and preventing strategies
   d. methods of discipline

L. Physical Development in School-Age Children---------------------------3 hours

1. Body Growth
2. Common Health Problems
   a. malnutrition
   b. illnesses
   c. obesity
   d. injuries
   e. bed wetting
3. Motor Development & Play
   a. gross and fine motor skills
   b. individual and group differences
   c. physical education
4. Living With the School-Age Child at Home & at School
   a. ensuring the health of the school-age child
   b. promoting good eating habits & physical fitness
   c. toys and playthings for the school-age child

M. Cognitive Development in School-Age Children--------------------------3 hours

1. Characteristics of School-Age Children
   a. conservation
   b. spatial reasoning
   c. classification
   d. seriation
2. Information Processing Skills
   a. brain development
   b. attention
   c. memory strategies
   d. cognitive
   e. self-regulation
   f. applications of information
   g. processing of academic learning
3. Individual Differences in Mental Development
   a. defining and measuring intelligence
   b. contributing factors to individual & group differences in IQ
4. Living with School-Age Child at Home and at School
   a. parental beliefs & children’s perceived competence
   b. teacher beliefs and children’s perceived competence
5. Children in Schools
   a. the role of classics, educational philosophies and teacher, pupil interaction
   b. computers in the classroom
   c. teaching children with special needs

N. The Development of Language & Communication in School-Age----1 hour
   Child

   1. Oral Language
   2. Written Language
   3. Living With the School-Age Child at Home & at School
      a. supporting children’s reading
      b. conversing with children

O. Social & Emotional Development in School-Age Children-------------4 hours

   1. Self-Development
      a. changes in self-concept & self-esteem
      b. cognitive, social & cultural influences on self-concept & self-esteem
      c. childrearing practices/supporting children’s self-esteem
   2. Emotional Development
      a. self conscious emotions
      b. emotional understanding and self-regulation
   3. Understanding Others & Peer Relations
      a. peer groups, friendships and peer acceptance
      b. gender typing and gender identity and behavior
   4. Moral Development
      a. cognition and moral reasoning
      b. moral reasoning and behavior
   5. Family Influences
      a. child relationships with parents & siblings
      b. divorce and its consequences
      c. blended families
   6. Living With the School-Age Children/Effects of Being a Latchkey Child
      a. child care for school-age children/effects of being a latchkey child
      b. child sexual abuse: characteristics & consequences
      c. helping children who have difficulty with peers & family

Total 45 hours

VI. Textbook

VII. Basis of Student Evaluation

A. Performance on examinations 70%
B. Quality of participation in classroom discussions and projects 10%
C. Quality of projects completed outside of class (e.g. observations) 20%