COURSE TITLE: Infant and Toddler Development

COURSE NUMBER: PSY 330

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an in-depth study of the growth and development of an infant from conception to age three. The effect of nature vs. nurture on development is emphasized; recent trends in infant group care are reviewed. Basic knowledge of child growth and development is essential to succeed in the course.

As Psychology professionals, we recognize that reactions to trauma come in many forms. The content of this course, and discussions about trauma from different perspectives, may bring about unexpected and unsettling reactions. Responses to trauma are often strategies that survivors have developed to keep themselves safe, and therefore really reflect strength and resiliency. Recognizing how trauma impacts anyone is an important part of skill building for creating trauma-informed services and systems. Please do not hesitate to contact the instructor at any time during the course if you would like to discuss, privately, your reactions to the content we are reviewing and/or the discussions we are having.

MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS:

GOAL A:
The student will demonstrate an understanding of the importance of early development to later development.

Learning Outcomes: The student will be able to:

A-1 Explain the influence of infant/toddler development on subsequent stages of development especially early childhood.

GOAL B:
The student will show understanding of significant milestones of development during this stage.

Learning Outcomes: The student will be able to:

B-1 Identify physical changes from prenatal through toddlerhood.
B-2 Identify cognitive changes from prenatal through toddlerhood.
B-3 Identify language changes from prenatal through toddlerhood.
B-4 Identify psychosocial changes from prenatal through toddlerhood.

**GOAL C:**
The student will demonstrate knowledge of factors that influence development including both hereditary and environmental factors.

**Learning Outcomes:** The student will be able to:

C-1 Describe the influence of a human relationship on development.
C-2 Identify other environmental influences on development.
C-3 Explain the transactional nature of development in terms of the effect of the environment on the child and the child on the environment.
C-4 Identify biological/genetic factors that influence development, and explain their relative importance in development of various domains (such as cognitive, physical, etc.).
C-5 Identify factors that put a child at risk prenatally, in infancy, and in toddlerhood.
C-6 Identify factors that promote resilience.

**GOAL D.**
The student will be aware of current issues related to development in this stage.

**Learning Outcomes:** The student will be able to:

D-1 Describe the effect of day care on development.
D-2 Explain the concept of hot house babies
D-3 Identify modern day problems in infancy such as crack babies, multiple birth babies, etc. that influence the development of the child.

**GOAL E:** The student will demonstrate ability to observe and assess children at this age.

**Learning Outcomes:** The student will be able to:

E-1 Observe and record findings.
E-2 Distinguish between observable behavior and inference
E-3 Draw inferences from observations.

**GOAL F:** Understand the role that psychological and physical trauma plays in infant and toddler development.

**Learning Outcomes:** The student will be able to:

F-1 Explain the role and impact adverse childhood experiences have on mental, physical, and socioemotional health.
F-2 Identify factors that promote resilience in infant and toddler development.
F-3 Discuss ways to integrate a trauma-informed approach into areas in which children are treated and cared for, including families, education, and health care.
F-4 Discuss how culture impacts an individual's exposure to, understanding of, and response to trauma over a lifespan.

GOAL G:
Use appropriate written and oral communication skills

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

G-1 Communicate information orally in a logical and grammatical manner.
G-2 Present written information using standard APA style.