

FCS 1500-090, Summer Semester

FCS 1500 is a fully online course—we never meet as a class. You should think of the course as progressing in two phases. The **first phase** will run through the first four weeks of the semester, as indicated on the course schedule. This four-week period will be devoted to the basics of information exchange and exams. More specifically, during these first four weeks you will read from the textbook and from materials I will provide, and you will complete exams for each of four sections of content. The **second phase** of this course will run through weeks 5 and 6 of the semester, and will be devoted to your completion of a written assignment—I will provide four assignment options (each based on course content you already will have covered) and you will be required to complete one of the four options (with your paper approximately 2-3 pages in length). Your written assignment is due near the end of week 6, and your completion and submission of this assignment will mark the end of the course.

As for what the course is about, we will consider development from conception through all stages of life. Among the questions considered:

- What roles do nature and nurture play in development?
- How can human development be studied in an objective manner?
- What is the normal course of prenatal development?
- How and why do things go wrong during pregnancy?
- Why do infants cry?
- Are babies totally helpless and dependent?
- How do children learn to communicate?
- How old should a child be before parents expect the child to follow rules?
- Why do adolescents spend so much time thinking about themselves?
- Is it natural for conflict to increase between parents and children when the children reach adolescence?
- Why do adolescents exhibit high-risk behavior?
- Why do young adults feel pressure to reach certain milestones, such as marriage and parenthood?
- Is there a connection between how one was parented and how one parents?
- Is there such a thing as mid-life crisis?
- What is menopause?
- Why are men more likely to play with their grandchildren than they were to play with their own children?
- Does intelligence decline during adulthood?

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