

**HUMAN GROWTH AND TRANSFORMATION**  
**PC 408-3, Fall 2009**  
**W & F, 10:00-11:20**  
**Schlegel Hall 120**

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***Course Description***

Various perspectives on the developmental process will be examined from the fields of theology, psychology, sociology, marriage and family therapy, and literature. Attention is given to the growth of cognitive structures; psychosocial, moral, and faith development through the life span; issues surrounding the family life cycle; and various models of transformation, both personal and systemic. The course encourages students to reflect on their own developmental experiences in light of their religious heritage as well as to explore the implications of course content for their ministries of pastoral care and counseling.

***Objectives/competencies include enabling students***

1. to understand the principles of human development such as gender development, family development and processes; diversity; power, privilege, and oppression (2.1.1)
2. to recognize contextual and systemic dynamics (e.g., gender, age, socioeconomic status, culture/race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, spirituality, larger systems, social context) (1.2.1)
3. to demonstrate critical thinking about developmental theories, models, and perspectives;
4. to demonstrate a preliminary ability to integrate these factors into clinical observations that relate to eliciting a relevant and accurate biopsychosocial-spiritual history to understand the context of the clients' problems (2.3.8) and that help identify clients' strengths, resilience, and resources (2.3.10).

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Broderick, Patricia C. and Pamela Blewitt. *The Life Span: Human Development for Helping Professionals*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. NJ: Pearson/Merrill Prentice Hall, 2009.

Carter, Betty and Monica McGoldrick, eds. *The Expanded Family Life Cycle: Individual, Family, and Social Perspectives*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1999.

Fowler, James W. *Stages of Faith: The Psychology of Human Development and the Quest for Meaning*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, Publishers, 1981.

PCUSA, *Growing in the Life of Christian Faith: A Report Approved by the 201<sup>st</sup> General Assembly (1989) Presbyterian Church (USA)*. Louisville: Theology and Worship Ministry Unit, 1991.