

**DEPARTMENT: Social Studies**

**NAME OF COURSE: Child Psychology**

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF COURSE**

The Child Psychology course is a half year elective designed to introduce students to the systematic study of the behavioral and mental development of human beings from infancy through childhood and adolescence into young adulthood. This course will acquaint students with the psychological, cultural and historical factors that interact to influence and shape this development. Students will learn the psychological theories associated with the foundations of child development with a focus on key developmental themes, including: pre-natal, neural and biological, learning and cognitive, social-emotional, personality, gender-role, and moral development among others. These concepts will be taught by means of case material, films, and student life experiences. Students will learn the various functions of a child's behaviors and be able to predict future behaviors by understanding behavioral patterns. Students will also develop skills in the scientific approach and critical thinking.

**MAJOR TOPICS COVERED:**

History, Theories and Methods of Child Development, Heredity and Conception, Prenatal Development, Birth and the Newborn Baby, Infancy: Physical, Cognitive and Social/Emotional Development, Early Childhood, Middle Childhood, Adolescence

**TEXTBOOK:**

**CDEV Student Edition by, Specer A. Rathus**

**GRADING PROCEDURES:**

In class assignments, exams, projects, participation