Developmental Research Paper – Revised
Final Exam – Due in class 5/4/12

Developmental Research Paper (5-6 pages):

PART 1: Select a theory of development psychoanalytic, psychosocial, behavioral (includes observational learning), or cognitive. Discuss the theory and its main concepts. Use the theory to describe at least 2 developmental stages/developmental experiences that you discuss via your own development and your interviewee’s development.

PART 2: Although biology plays a strong role in development, you will come to see over the course of the semester that many other factors influence development. To get a better understanding of how developmental aspects and factors change over time, I would like you to interview a person who is at least 25 years older than you. This could be parents or grandparents or some other individual you know who is older. Ask them to tell you how they think your life (at your age) is different from what they experienced when they were your age. Also, please compare developmental expectations/patterns at each stage in development that we have covered with your own experiences and what you have learned in class. How are the differences between your life and theirs reflecting changes in society? What has changed that influences how you live relative to how they lived at the same age? How has culture changed? For example, some of the changes may reflect changes attitudes/beliefs on what is right/wrong, healthy/unhealthy or changes in opportunities for men and women. Some may reflect technological changes. Some may reflect changes in the economic system and globalization. The key is to think outside of your individual experience to try to understand how cultural/social changes have affected your lives. Then it should include a discussion of the differences noted between your lives and then point out some of the changes in society that make your lives different. Be sure to use specific examples rather than just broad statements about how society has changed and to lay out your paper in a chronological manner as you go through each relevant developmental period (i.e. birth, infant, toddler, young child, etc).

Double spaced, 12 pt. font, 1" margins