Study Guide for Exam 1

The exam consists of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. You will be able to choose from various questions on the short answer portion. Please be sure to bring paper to the exam for essay questions. Keep in mind that although this study guide is intended to help you focus your studying for the exam, you are still responsible for reading and reviewing all assigned material.

- Be familiar with the underlying philosophy and basic concepts of all the theories/perspectives we've covered in class/text up to this point (e.g., Freud, Piaget, learning, social learning, systems, ecological theories). In addition to understanding the important features of these theories, be prepared to apply concepts of them (thoroughly and with depth) to a case example. In addition to applying theory to a case, you should be able to discuss the theory's weaknesses in explaining the case. You should be able to discuss how theories are limited with regard to addressing other concepts affecting development/functioning such as genetics, familial aspects, environmental concerns, or other aspects that may go beyond a theory's ability to explain problem behaviors. For each theory, make sure you know the major constructs, age ranges for development, as well as the skills that are mastered in each (for Piaget's theory, you do not need to know all of the ages for the various substages; just concentrate on the major stages). For example, you'll want to be able to explain concepts such as centration, egocentrism, symbolic function, etc., and at what age, generally, children can master them. Also, for example, as a major concept of Freud's theory, you'll want to know what defense mechanisms are, what purpose they serve, and review the list of the different types of defense mechanisms--in addition to knowing the stages of his theory. For learning theory, you'd want a good understanding of punishment, negative reinforcement, etc.

- Be able to discuss the various debates on theory and practice such as whether one should be eclectic or adhere to one theory, how one knows whether a theory or a piece of knowledge is “good” or credible, whether one should use empirical-based or practice-based knowledge, etc.