

**DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC ELECTIVE COURSE**  
**DSE HP 7A1: THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

**CREDIT DISTRIBUTION, ELIGIBILITY AND PRE-REQUISITES OF THE COURSE**

Course Title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course(if any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
<b>Theoretical Perspectives in Human Development DSE HP 7A1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Class XII</b>	<b>Nil</b>

**Learning Objectives**

- To learn about the history of study of human development.
- To comprehend the cultural notions of children and childhood.
- To study evolving contemporary theories in the discipline.
- To provide a framework to locate human development and childhood in an interdisciplinary context.

**Learning Outcomes**

The students will be able to

- Understand the historical and philosophical traditions and theories of development.
- Comprehend the task of knowledge construction with reference to human development and childhood studies.
- Appreciate and analyse the different theories of development.
- Develop skills for critical appraisal and construction of theories of development.

**SYLLABUS OF DSE HP 7A1**

**THEORY**  
**(Credits 2; Hours 30)**

**UNIT I: Theory, construct and phenomena**

**8 Hours**

This unit introduces the foundational concepts of theory, theorizing, and how they connect with research and phenomena.

- Theorizing and its philosophical underpinnings
- Understanding Theory: Definition and Purpose
- Links between phenomena, theory, and method
- Grounded Theory

**UNIT II: Biological and Cognitive Theories of Development**

**12 Hours**

This unit focuses on key biological and cognitive perspectives of human development.

- Evolutionary Theory
- Psychosexual Theory
- Cognitive-Developmental Theory
- Vygotsky's Socio-Cultural Perspective

- Theory-of-Mind

### **UNIT III: Environmental and Lifespan Perspectives on Development**

**10 Hours**

This unit explores environmental and contextual theories that influence human growth across the lifespan.

- Learning Theory
- Social Role Theory
- Life-Course Theory
- Dynamic Systems Theory
- Constructivist Perspective

### **UNIT IV: Social, Selfhood, and Cultural Perspectives**

**15 Hours**

This unit addresses theories related to self, social construction, and culturally rooted understandings of human development.

- Psycho-Social Theory
- Perspectives from Positive Psychology
- Humanistic Theories
- Theories of Self in the Indian Context

### **TUTORIAL (Credit 1; Hours 15)**

- Watch documentaries on the life and work of theorists. Discuss and reflect upon self-narratives delineating the importance of context and culture in development.
- Sessions/workshop on self-help approaches for mental wellbeing and other relevant themes for students.

### **Essential Readings**

- Benson, N. (2011). *The psychology book: Big ideas simply explained*. DK: London.
- Buckingham, W. (2011). *The philosophy book*. DK: London.
- Crain, W. (2024). *Theories of development: Concepts and applications*. Routledge: New York.
- Jenks, C. (2005). *Childhood: Critical Concepts in Sociology*. New York; Routledge.
- Rogoff, B. (2003). *The Cultural Nature of Human Development*. USA: OUP.

### **Suggested Readings**

- Dixon, R. A. & Lerner, R. M. (1999). *History and Systems in Developmental Psychology*. In M. H. Bornstein & M. E. Lamb, *Developmental Psychology: An Advanced Textbook*. 4th edition. pp 3 – 48. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum.
- Frazer, J.G. (2004). *The Golden Bough: A study in magic and religion*. USA: Cosmo.
- Hampden-Turner, C. (1981). *Maps of the mind*. New York: Wiley.
- Ishay, M.R. (2004). *The History of Human Rights: From Ancient Times to the Globalization Era*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Ramanujan, A.K. (1994). *Folk Tales From India*. India: Penguin Books.
- Ramanujan, A.K. (1997). *Flowering Tree: And Other Oral Tales From India*. USA: Viking.
- Sobel, D. (1999). *Galileo's Daughter: A Historic Memoir of Science, Faith and Love*. New York: Walker & Co.
- Spivak, G. C. (2004). *Death of a Discipline*. Calcutta: Seagull.

**Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.**