Chapter 11: Life-Span Development

- Developmental psychology = measures changes and constancies over time (physically, intellectually, & socially)

- Jean Piaget’s theory of cognitive development:
  - underlying concepts:
    * naturalistic observation
    * schemas = mental categories:
      ~ assimilation = absorption
      ~ accommodation = restructuring
    * operation = reversible relationships

- 4 stages of cognitive development:
  1. sensorimotor stage (0-2 years):
     ~ trial-and-error learning through senses and reflexes
     ~ egocentrism
     ~ object permanence (first observed at 8-12 mos.)
2. **preoperational stage** (2-6 years):
   - continued egocentrism
   - symbolic representations
   - imagination and make-believe
   - **centration** = one perceptual factor at a time

3. **concrete operations stage**
   (7-12 years):
   - logical solutions to concrete problems
   - **decentration**

4. **formal operations stage** (teen years):
   - abstract, systematic, & flexible
   - adolescent egocentrism (e.g., emotional uniqueness)
Erik Erikson's psychosocial theory of personality development:
* neo-Freudian (ego-based)
* covers entire lifespan
* each sequential stage defined by a major "developmental life crisis"

- 8 stages of psychosocial development:
  1. trust vs. mistrust (0–2 years) = caregiving relationship
  2. autonomy vs. shame & doubt (2–3 years) = independence
  3. initiative vs. guilt (3–6 years) = accomplishment
  4. industry vs. inferiority (6–12 years) = "productive play" as influenced by peers
  5. identity vs. role confusion (13–19 years) = search for personal identity
  6. intimacy vs. isolation (20–40 years) = sharing and commitment
  7. generativity vs. stagnation (40–60 years) = productive and creative contributions to family, work, and community
  8. ego integrity vs. despair (ages 60+) = life review (Robert Butler)