

South Plains College
Common Course Syllabus: PSYC 2308 Child Psychology

SEMESTER: Fall 2025

Department: Behavioral Sciences

Discipline: Psychology

Course Number: PSYC 2308

Course Title: Child Psychology

Available Formats: conventional, internet

Campuses: Levelland, Reese, Plainview, Lubbock Downtown Center, Dual-Credit

Course Description: This course will address psychological development from conception through childhood with references to physical, cognitive, social and personality changes. Students will examine the interplay of biological factors, human interaction, social structures and cultural forces in development.

Prerequisite: : (TSI compliance); TSI compliance in reading for the INET but not for face-to-face

Credit: 3 **Lecture:** 0 **Lab**

Textbook: Open Resources Textbook. Child Growth and Development is available in Blackboard. This has no cost for the student.

Supplies: Computer access

This course partially satisfies a Core Curriculum Requirement: Social and Behavioral Science Foundational Component Area (080)

Core Curriculum Objectives addressed:

- **Communications skills**—to include effective written, oral and visual communication
- **Critical thinking skills**—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- **Empirical and quantitative competency skills**—to manipulate and analyze numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
- **Social Responsibility**—to include the demonstrated knowledge and competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Describe how human beings change physically, cognitively, socially and emotionally from conception through childhood.

2. Identify fundamental concepts and theories, both recent and historical, within the field of child psychology.
3. Evaluate research issues and methodologies used to investigate developmental phenomena.
4. Describe the process of development and the multiple sources of influence on a developing child.

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment: Measures of skills on discussion and quizzes will be used to assess the Student Learning Outcomes.

Course Evaluation: Discussions, assignments, exams, and a paper will be used to determine your grade..

Plagiarism and Cheating: Students are expected to do their own work on all projects, quizzes, assignments, examinations, and papers. Failure to comply with this policy will result in an F for the assignment and can result in an F for the course if circumstances warrant.

Plagiarism violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Turning in a paper that has been purchased, borrowed, or downloaded from another student, an online term paper site, or a mail order term paper mill;
2. Cutting and pasting together information from books, articles, other papers, or online sites without providing proper documentation;
3. Using direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations and citing them; or
4. Missing in-text citations.

Cheating violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Obtaining an examination by stealing or collusion;
2. Discovering the content of an examination before it is given;
3. Using an unauthorized source of information (notes, textbook, text messaging, internet, apps) during an examination, quiz, or homework assignment;
4. Entering an office or building to obtain unfair advantage;
5. Taking an examination for another;
6. Altering grade records;
7. Copying another's work during an examination or on a homework assignment;
8. Rewriting another student's work in Peer Editing so that the writing is no longer the original student's;
9. Taking pictures of a test, test answers, or someone else's paper.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Artificial Intelligence (AI) programs (such as ChatGPT) may be used in this class to generate ideas and brainstorm for assignments. For example, ChatGPT might be used to generate a thesis statement for an introductory paragraph while the individual independently writes the rest of paragraph. However, you should note that the material generated by AI programs may be incorrect, incomplete, or otherwise problematic. Overuse or incorrect use of AI programs may also decrease individuals' independent thinking, creativity, and learning.

You may not submit any work generated by AI programs as your own original work. Using AI to create an assignment or even the majority of an assignment is considered to be a form of plagiarism in this class. If you include material generated by an AI program, it should be cited in the same manner as any other outside materials/references. Here is a link with information on how to cite AI using APA Citation Style: <https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt>

Misuse of AI or any other violation of academic integrity will be dealt with according to the policies outlined in this syllabus.

Student Code of Conduct Policy: Any successful learning experience requires mutual respect on the part of the student and the instructor. Neither instructor nor student should be subject to others' behavior that is rude, disruptive, intimidating, aggressive, or demeaning. Student conduct that disrupts the learning process or is deemed disrespectful or threatening shall not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class.

For information regarding official South Plains College statements about intellectual exchange, disabilities, non-discrimination, Title V Pregnancy Accommodations, CARE Team, and Campus Concealed Carry, please visit <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>.

Specific Course Information:

Child Psychology PSYC 2308 /Blackboard

Peggy Skinner, Ph.D. Professor

(806) 716-2455

Outside email : pskinner@southplainscollege.edu.

Textbook:

- **Textbook/Required reading:** Your textbook is an open resource text which means it is available at no charge and is found on your Blackboard class under course content—Textbook.

Computer Requirements:

- These are specified on the Blackboard site. There are study tapes that will assist in learning Blackboard. The link is https://help.blackboard.com/enus/Learn/Reference/Blackboard_Learn_Videos

. Troubleshooting and Tech Support:

- **Open Computer Lab:** There is an Open Computer Lab located on the Levelland campus in the Technology Center. It is available to all students, with priority given to those students enrolled in computer classes. Computers are also available on the Reese Center, Lubbock, and Plainview campuses. If viewing videos, check to see if you need headsets for audio.
- **Technical Problems/Support:** If you are having computer problems, I will try to help you in any way that I can but calling tech support might be quicker. Please remember that it is your responsibility to have a backup plan if your computer goes down. **Please have a backup plan in place.**
- **PLEASE DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO TURN ASSIGNMENTS IN OR YOU MAY HAVE PROBLEMS!** Remember the saying "TECHNOLOGY HAPPENS"!
- **Anti-virus Software:** Please make sure that your computer has an up-to-date antivirus software program installed.

Attendance Policy:

- Even though this is an online class or a virtual classroom, students still have to access the course on a regular basis to so assessments, submit assignments and participate in class discussion via the class discussion board. If you do not complete assignments for 3 weeks this is reason to drop you from the course. Be sure that you keep up with assignments.
- The Blackboard software used to manage this online course tracks student logins, tracking when and where the student has been in the course. Accessing this course on a regular basis is extremely important in order to meet the objectives of this course. You will feel more at ease with the materials if you stay in touch with what is going on.
- **Administrative Drop Policy:** Due to Financial Aid and South Plains College requirements for participation/attendance:
- **It is important to note that students who fails to turn in 3 weeks' assignments will be dropped with a grade of "X" or "F" from the course. If missed assignments occur after the final drop date you will not be dropped and will receive the grade earned.**

GRADING:

- The first post is an introduction of you to the class (see deadline on calendar). All Discussion topics will be listed on Discussion page.
- o The primary goal of this portion of the course is to "talk" about what you are learning so it is more appropriate to be informal and conversational in these assignments and spend more time polishing the weekly assignment questions.
 - **DISCUSSIONS have the same deadline as your weekly assignments.** The topic is provided and you will be asked to respond to that question and/or video. There is one discussion due per week and it is worth 75 points each for a total of 1125 points.
 - **ASSIGNMENTS:** You will have an assignment each week and that assignment is found in the weekly work.
 - **PAPER**—you will have a short paper that is required and will be worth 500 points. This information is located on the “Paper” page on the Start Here tab and on the left tab.
 - **EXAM 1 and EXAM 2** – You have 2 essay exams during the semester. These are available for several weeks but do have a deadline that is listed. You may use your textbook and other sources to answer the questions. Each exam is worth 250 points.
 - **TOTAL points for all these assignments and tests would be as follows:**
 1. Assignments—1500
 2. Discussions—1125
 3. Exam 1—250
 4. Exam 2—250
 5. Paper---500
 6. Total --3625

ONLINE ETIQUETTE

A few words about communication and online discussion are in order. As you can imagine, some conversations easily become emotional, especially if we touch on people's deeply held beliefs. Unfortunately, online posting can mislead one into thinking that cyberspace is an “anything goes” kind of forum. This isn't the case. Civil interaction is as much expected here as in the “traditional” classroom. Below I provide some guidelines for communicating more effectively online. I will deduct points from posts that violate the spirit of these suggestions. IF I DEEM THE COMMENTS ESPECIALLY EGREGIOUS I WILL DROP YOU FROM THE CLASS.

Essay Questions:

These should be polished writing assignments which use the written standards of conventional English (i.e. spelling, punctuation, paragraph form and grammar count!). Be sure and address textbook information in your assignment.

- As in the Discussion Board requirements, you must use the **psychological perspective** and you should reference textbook material (but do not copy) to show an understanding of terms and concepts to receive the maximum number of points. When using text or other sources, it is important that you use **YOUR OWN words** to demonstrate that you understand the material. **Don't copy/paste from textbook or other sources since that is plagiarism and dishonest.** Points are deducted for length, spelling, grammar, paragraph form, etc.
- To help students keep on track and learn to the address topic clearly, the questions are very specific.
 - **Remember grades are based on what you write not what you intended to say.**
- These should be polished writing assignments which use the written standards of conventional English (i.e. spelling, punctuation, paragraph form and grammar count!). Be sure and address textbook information in your assignment. You should reference textbook material to show an understanding of terms and concepts to receive the maximum number of points. o NOTE: If you are unable to reword something then that usually means you don't know understand the material.
- Check the calendar for all due dates and due dates are also listed on quizzes, assignments, discussions, and learning modules. NOTE:
DEADLINES are for MIDNIGHT for the date due.
- **Late work:** For the purposes of this course there are set deadlines (see assignment/testing/calendar links for dates). All work (quizzes, assignments, discussions) assigned for that week must be posted or submitted by that time to receive credit. . Excuses such as "The network was down," or "I could not figure out how to send the assignment " or "Time expired just as I went to hit the submit button" are not acceptable. In short, **plan ahead and do not wait until the last minute** to submit your assignments.
- Check on the Announcements for your calendar with all the dates.

Grade Distribution:

A = 90% This would mean having more than 90% of the 3625 points or 3262 points

B = 80% This would mean having more than 80% of the 3625 points or above 2900 points.

C = 70% This would mean having more than 70% of the 3625 points or above 2538 points.

D = 60% This would mean having more than 60% of the 3625 points or above 2175 points.

F = 59% or less If your total points are below 2174 then you are failing.

Helpful websites on citation and/or plagiarism:

http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_apa.html

http://www.southplainscollege.edu/behavior_sciences/soci/Plagiarism.doc

- **Student Conduct** – "Failure to comply with lawful directions of a classroom teacher relative to maintaining good order is considered misconduct on the part of the student. Repeated violations of disrupting a class will result in the student being dropped from the course" (see SPC Student Guide). Please note that this is an online environment and others will see your comments posted to the discussion board area and/or in e-mail communications. Do not post any pictures, comments or data that others may find offensive.

PAPER—Due by midnight, November 16, 2025. Worth 500 points

TOTAL POINTS = 3625

Instructions are available on paper topics and the grading rubric.