

South Plains College
Common Course Syllabus: PSYC 2314
Fall 2025

Department: Behavioral Sciences

Discipline: Psychology

Course Number: PSYC 2314

Course Title: **Lifespan Growth and Development**

Available Formats: Campus Lecture, Online, Online Lecture

Campuses: Levelland, Reese, Plainview, Lubbock Center, Online, and Online DualCredit

Course Description: Life-Span Growth and Development is a study of social, emotional, cognitive and physical factors and influences of a developing human from conception to death.

Prerequisite: TSI reading compliance for Online

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

Textbook: *Lifespan Development: A Psychological Perspective*, Lally, M. & Valentine-French, S. (2017).

This textbook can be accessed for free by clicking on the following

link: https://dept.clcillinois.edu/psy/LifespanDevelopment_08092022.pdf

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

Core Curriculum Objectives addressed:

- **Communication 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 skills-** to manipulate and analyze numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.
- **Teamwork** – to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.
- **Personal Responsibility** - to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.
- **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: Students who have successfully completed this course are expected to be able to:

1. Describe the stages of the developing person at different periods of the life span from birth to death.

2. Discuss the social, political, economic, and cultural forces that affect the development process of the individual.
3. Identify factors of responsible personal behavior with regard to issues such as sexual activity, substance abuse, marriage and parenting.
4. Explain the biosocial, cognitive and psychological influences throughout the lifespan as an ongoing set of processes, involving both continuity and change.
5. Describe the different developmental perspectives of the major theories of development (i.e. cognitive, learning, humanistic and psychodynamic).
6. Identify examples of some of the cultural and ethnic differences that influence development throughout the lifespan.
7. Discuss the various causes or reasons for disturbances in the developmental process.

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment: Marcie Miller is the faculty member who is responsible for the assessment of the student learning outcomes. She will be sending a list of which SLOs will be assessed for each semester. There are 7 outcomes and these are rotated. Mrs. Miller is also the person responsible for entry of the data into Task Stream for documentation.

Course Evaluation: See the instructor's course information sheet for specific items used in evaluating student performance. However, all courses will have multiple exams and written work that is designated by the instructor of record.

Attendance/Engagement Policy:

Students are expected to engage in class each week in order to be successful in a course. "Engagement" includes learning activities such as attending class, submitting weekly assignments, completing make-up work, etc. Due to South Plains College attendance policies, any student who fails to engage in three consecutive weeks during the semester or fails to attempt a minimum of two major grades may be asked to withdraw or "drop" from the course.

Students who enroll in a course but have "Never Attended" by the official census date, as reported by the faculty member, may also be asked to drop the course. Instructors are responsible for clearly stating their administrative drop policy in the course syllabus, and it is the student's responsibility to be aware of that policy.

It is the student's responsibility to verify administrative drops for excessive absences through MySPC using his or her student online account. If it is determined that a student is awarded financial aid for a class or classes in which the student never attended or participated, the financial aid award will be adjusted in accordance with the classes in which the student did attend/participate and the student will owe any balance resulting from the adjustment. See instructor's Course Information Sheet for additions to the attendance policy.

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COVID Statement: South Plains College policies, return to campus plan, and protocols regarding COVID-19 can be found here: [COVID Response \(southplainscollege.edu\)](https://southplainscollege.edu/covid-response).

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.

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.

South Plains College policies concerning Disabilities, Non-discrimination, Title IX Pregnancy and Parenting Accommodations, CARE (Campus Assessment, Response, and Evaluation), Intellectual Exchange, Campus Concealed Carry, COVID-19, and AI (Artificial Intelligence) can be found here: [Syllabus Statements](#).

Note: The instructor reserves the right to modify the course syllabus and policies, as well as notify students of any changes, at any point during the semester

Instructor's Course Information: Dr. Diane Wittie

Course Information: PSYC 2314, Sections 002 & 003; Lifespan Growth and Development – FALL 2025

Course Meeting Times/Location: **Section 002** - M/W, 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM, Levelland, Administration Building, Room 150
Section 003 - M/W, 1:00 PM to 2:15 PM, Levelland, Administration Building, Room 150

Course Website: Blackboard (southplainscollege.blackboard.com)

Email Address: dwittie@southplainscollege.edu

Blackboard: This is a **conventional (face-to-face)** course and will be conducted completely in person. Course assignments will be submitted in Blackboard and during class time. You may use my email address to contact me outside of class time.

Instructor Office: Administration Building, #119

Office Hours:

Tue. 10:00 AM – Noon; 1:00 to 3:00 PM

Thu. 10:00 – Noon; 1:00 to 2:00 PM

Fri. 10:00 – 11:00 AM

Instructor is also available by appointment. Instructor Office Phone: 806-716-2468 (This number calls directly to my office in Levelland, however it is better to contact me by email. If you do leave a voice message, make sure to state your FULL name and the name of the **course/section** you are in.)

Textbook: *Lifespan Development: A Psychological Perspective* by M. Lally and S. Valentine-French. This is an OER (open resources) textbook that is available on Blackboard at no cost to the student.

Course Structure: This course is delivered as a conventional face-to-face (F2F) modality. Students are expected to attend each class session. All deadlines are listed on the Course Schedule below, as well as in Blackboard.

Instructor's Course Policies:

General Expectations/Policies for Students: *I would like to welcome each of you to an environment of community, pride, courtesy, and utmost respect; we are all here to work cooperatively and to learn together. I am honored to have you in my class this semester and want to thank you in advance for the time and hard work that you will put into this learning experience.*

*One of the keys to being successful in college is to **communicate with your instructor**. Feel free to email me if I can help you be successful in this course. I wish you luck this semester and hope that the grade you*

achieve will reflect the effort you put into it. Please make every attempt to keep up with all assignments. This includes keeping up with the pace of this course by completing all assignments, exams and papers/projects on time.

If you miss a class meeting for any reason, YOU are responsible for all material covered, for announcements made in your absence, and for acquiring any materials that may have been distributed in class. I do NOT give out my notes so you will need to get those from another student. There are no recordings of class lectures for this course.

Attendance & Administrative Drop Policy: Attendance will be taken during each class meeting. Students will be responsible for material presented and discussed in class. Due to South Plains College attendance policies, any student who fails to attend 5 classes during the semester or fails to attempt a minimum of two major grades may be asked to withdraw or “drop” from the course. Essentially, to be counted present means that you need to be **mentally and physically present** in the classroom.

Due to Financial Aid and South Plains College requirements for participation/attendance, a student who fails to turn in 5 assignments during the semester may be dropped with a grade of "X" from the course. Assignments in this context refer to the chapter assignments as well as application assignments, exams, essays, projects, and discussions.

Class Withdrawal: It is the full responsibility of the **student** to personally withdraw from the course if needed. A student who has already missed or has had difficulty completing modules, assignments, papers/projects, exams, and/or anticipates difficulty in completing the course to his/her satisfaction is encouraged to give withdrawal all the consideration it is due. Students should discuss progress and grades with the instructor prior to making a withdrawal decision.

Technology Policy: Blackboard (<http://southplainscollege.blackboard.com>) is the learning management system used to submit assignments. It is essential that you have **reliable access to the Internet**, appropriate devices/software, and a working knowledge of Blackboard. You should always **have a backup plan** in place should you encounter computer or internet problems. There are open computer labs available to all enrolled SPC students on all campuses. It is also the student's responsibility to have the required computer skills to complete this course. Should you encounter technical difficulties contact your instructor immediately as well as **SPC technical support at blackboard@southplainscollege.edu** or call (806) 894-9611, ext. 2180. Be sure to include your full name, course number, section number and a number where you can be reached when contacting technical support. Not knowing how something works or having personal computer or Internet difficulties will not suffice as an excuse for missed deadlines and will not constitute extensions or do-overs.

Disruptive Behaviors: Do your best to be respectful of others and their right to learn in a peaceful environment. “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 Student Guide)

- *Be a Respectful Classmate:* Avoid creating distractions, talking out of turn, talking with classmates during lecture (or socializing in the chat), wandering in and out of class, chronically showing up late, chronically leaving early, or improper use of technology, such as phones. These behaviors are disruptive to your fellow classmates and are therefore subject to the same consequences listed in the Disruptive Behavior policy above.

- **Use Electronic Devices Appropriately:** Phones must be silenced and ***put away*** during in-person attendance. Devices used for note-taking are permitted, but should be used responsibly and must ***not create distractions for you, your instructor, or other students***.
- **Be on time to class:** Do your best to manage your time well and be on time to class. If you are tardy, please enter as quietly as possible and take a seat as close to the door as you can get. Being late to class is disruptive to your fellow classmates and is therefore subject to the same consequences listed in the Disruptive Behavior policy above.

Communication: You are expected to frequently check your SPC email and any announcements made in Blackboard Announcements. Your instructor will check SPC email each business day and will respond to communication within 1 business day.

Student Conduct: In conjunction with the policy stated in the Common Course Syllabus, one must uphold proper and respectful communication with the instructor and fellow classmates at all times. All interactions will remain civil. Repeated violations of this policy may result in the student being dropped from the course.

Written Work: All written work should be presented using the conventions of Standard Written English. South Plains College requires all students to become proficient in "academic English," a form of English that is typically used in academic, professional, and business contexts. While slang, regional idioms, and informal kinds of self-expression are appropriate in some contexts, they are out of place in academic writing. This will relate to all written work done in the course including discussions and assignments.

Acceptable and Supported File Types in Blackboard: Blackboard does **not** support or accept documents with .pages extensions. This applies to Mac users specifically. You will need to “convert”, “export” or “save as” your document in either a doc., docx, or PDF format before submitting to Blackboard. For more information regarding supported file types, click here: [Supported File Types](#).

Late work: Late work is not accepted in this course. **However**, the instructor reserves the right to consider the submission of late work on a case-by-case basis. Late assignments constitute those which have been initially submitted incorrectly, in a format other than Microsoft Word, or are submitted at any time after the deadline on the date it is scheduled. **You must contact your instructor within 14 days** of missing a deadline, provide documentation as to the reason you missed a deadline, then **if** approval is given, a new due date will be given for either the original assignment or an *alternative* assignment of equal value. If the student fails to meet the revised due date, then a zero (0) for the assignment will be given.

Extra Credit Activities: There will be **one** extra credit assignment (worth 3 points) available in Blackboard. You will also receive 5 extra points for completing the anonymous Course Evaluation at the end of the semester.

Academic Integrity: In addition to the Plagiarism and Cheating policy in the Common Course Syllabus, it should be understood that students found guilty of cheating or plagiarism will earn a zero on the work in question for the first offense and will be dropped from the course with an ‘F’ should a second offense occur. Any amount of dishonesty is subject to these consequences, whether a lot or a little; this can include but is not limited to one copied sentence in an essay, a missing or incorrect citation, an entire paper copied from someone/somewhere else, one plagiarized idea or post on a discussion board, one copied exam item or an exam, other coursework completed by someone other than yourself, or dishonestly using Internet searches and sites to complete your work. You have also committed academic dishonesty when sharing course content, assignments, items, or answers. This includes sharing course content with classmates or future students as well as sharing or posting course content on websites such as Quizlet, Course Hero, or similar

“study applications.” The information and assignments in this course are proprietary and are not yours to share. For further information and examples please see the Catalog, Student Guide, or refer to www.plagiarism.org

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Resources: AI applications are advanced language models designed to aid and engage in meaningful conversations, as well as generate and revise content. AI is intended to supplement learning, stimulate critical thinking, and enhance academic discourse. However, its use comes with certain responsibilities: Using AI to generate academic work, including essays, reports, or assignments, without proper attribution is a violation of SPC academic integrity policies. Plagiarism undermines the learning process and is strictly prohibited. Students must ensure that their work reflects their own ideas, research, synthesis, and analysis and appropriately cites all sources, including AI.

If the student submits work obtained by using AI or is suspected of utilizing AI, it will be considered plagiarism and will receive a grade of zero for the work. This course policy will be provided as feedback for said coursework, letting the student know that AI is suspected, or plagiarism has occurred. It is the student’s responsibility to follow up with the instructor within 7 days (one week) of the posted grade if work has been incorrectly flagged for AI use. The student can discuss the coursework in question with the instructor by virtual appointment in order to earn credit. In these cases, the student will need to verbally provide mastery of concepts related to the work in question. Any further attempts at using artificial intelligence as one’s own work will continue to earn zeroes for those attempts or may result in a course drop with an F by the instructor. The incidents may also be detailed and reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary actions.

Grading Policy & Method of Evaluation: All grades and feedback on coursework will be delivered in Blackboard.

It is possible to earn up to **547** points in this course. Your grade will be determined by a cumulative point total based on the following grades. It can be helpful to print this page and keep up with your points throughout the semester. (My Grades does not always reflect accurate points.)

	<i>Total Possible Points to Earn:</i>	<i>Your points:</i>
<i>Syllabus Quiz</i>	5	
<i>Introductory form</i>	5	
<i>Personal photo</i>	5	
<i>Activity 1</i>	20	
<i>Activity 2</i>	20	
<i>Activity 3</i>	20	
<i>Activity 4</i>	20	
<i>Activity 5</i>	20	
<i>Writing Assignment</i>	100	
<i>Adult Development Analysis</i>	100	
<i>Exam 1</i>	50	
<i>Exam 2</i>	50	
<i>Exam 3</i>	50	
<i>Reading Quiz 1</i>	5	
<i>Reading Quiz 2</i>	5	
<i>Reading Quiz 3</i>	5	
<i>Reading Quiz 4</i>	5	
<i>Reading Quiz 5</i>	5	
<i>Reading Quiz 6</i>	5	
<i>Reading Quiz 7</i>	5	
<i>Reading Quiz 8</i>	5	
<i>Reading Quiz 9</i>	5	
<i>Reading Quiz 10</i>	5	
<i>Engagement Points</i>	32	
	547	

At the end of the session, all points earned by you this session will be added up. Your Point Total will determine your final letter grade by using the following scale/point ranges:

A = 492 – 547 points B = 437 – 491 points C = 382 – 436 points D = 328 – 381 points F = 0 – 327 points

Syllabus Quiz, Introductory form, and Personal Photo (15 points): To familiarize yourself with the course website and check your understanding of important clauses in the syllabus, complete the brief Syllabus Quiz. Additionally, to allow me to get to know each of you better, complete and submit the Introductory form as well as a personal Photo of yourself. Submission of these tasks are located in the **Week 1 Learning Module** in Blackboard. All are due by **midnight Sunday, August 31**.

Activities (100 points): There will be 5 Activities (Discussions, Reflections, etc.) throughout the semester. Make sure you will be well prepared for these activities by reading the assigned course readings and viewing the supplemental material/resources to ensure your success on these activities.

Writing Assignment (100 points): Students will complete a written assignment on a specific topic pertaining to course content. The assignment should be double-spaced with 12-point font and use 1-inch margins. The content of the assignment should be an in-depth explanation (in one's own words) of the assigned topic. Including personal experience with the topic is *optional*, but it must be relevant to the topic if it is included and it should **not** be the main focus of the composition. Assignments must be typed and correctly submitted through Blackboard. Your composition should follow the guidelines of standard written English, and should follow basic essay format including an introduction, logical paragraph flow, and a conclusion. Papers cannot be submitted through email. See Course Calendar for all specific deadlines. More specific instruction will be given in class during the semester.

Adult Development Analysis (100 points) Students will analyze a modern film that features adults at different life stages (emerging adulthood, young adulthood, middle adulthood, and late adulthood). This analysis involves viewing the film and completing a Blackboard assignment and quiz related to the analysis. More details on this assignment will be provided in class.

Exams (150 points): There will be 3 non-cumulative exams during the semester covering material presented in the textbook and in Blackboard. Exams will include 50 multiple-choice, true-false, and short answer/essay questions. **All exams are given during class time.** See the course schedule on the following page for dates and times for the exams. **If you arrive late to an exam after any of your classmates have already finished the exam and left the room, you will not be permitted to take the exam.**

Special Requirements: In the event of a missed exam, students are required to notify the instructor within 14 days and submit verifiable documentation explaining the absence. Contingent upon the instructor's approval, a makeup examination will be administered during Final Exam week.

Reading Quizzes (50 points): There will be 10 reading quizzes throughout the semester. The quizzes are submitted through Blackboard. The rationale in completing these open-book quizzes is to aid you in becoming more familiar with specific portions of the course content in the textbook.

Engagement Points (32 points): Engagement in class involves your mental and physical presence in the classroom. Although you are not required to speak up during class time, it is important that I know you are paying attention and mentally engaging in content. (Hint: excessive cell phone and/or laptop use or wearing earpods is not considered as engagement and will not be counted as points earned.) One point is acquired with each class date and these points cannot be made up.

Course Calendar: PSYC 2314, Sections 002 and 003, Fall 2025

Lifespan Growth & Development

The instructor reserves the right to change the course outline as needed and will inform students of any changes.

DATE	Topics, Assignments, Quizzes, Exams:	DUE DATES
Wk 1 Aug 25-28	Introduction to Course and Syllabus Complete Syllabus Quiz Submit Introductory form Submit Personal Photo	All tasks are due before midnight, Sun Aug 31.
Wk 2 Sep 2 – 4 (9/1-SPC Holiday)	Ch 1 “Intro. to Lifespan Development” Reading Quiz 1 Activity 1	Due before midnight Sun Sep 14.
Wk 3 Sep 8 – 11	Ch 2 “Heredity, Prenatal Development, and Birth” Reading Quiz 2	Due before midnight Sun Sep 21.
Wk 4 Sep 15 – 18	Ch 3 “Infancy and Toddlerhood” Reading Quiz 3 Review for Exam 1 Activity 2	Due before midnight Sun Sep 28.
Wk 5 Sep 22 – 25	Exam 1 for Section 002 on Monday (during class) Exam 1 for Section 003 on Tuesday (during class) Chapter 4: “Early Childhood”	
Wk 6 Sep 29 – Oct 2	Finish Chapter 4 Reading Quiz 4 Resilience: The Biology of Stress & the Science of Hope (video); ACE’s	Due before midnight Sun Oct 12.
Wk 7 Oct 6 – 9	Chapter 5 “Middle and Late Childhood” Reading Quiz 5	Due before midnight Sun Oct 19.
Wk 8 Oct 13 – 16 (9/17-SPC Holiday)	Chapter 6 “Adolescence” Reading Quiz 6 Activity 3	Due before midnight Sun Oct 26.
Wk 9 Oct 20 – 23	Chapter 7 “Emerging and Early Adulthood” Reading Quiz 7 Activity 4 Submit Writing Assignment on Blackboard	Due before midnight Sun Nov 2.
Wk 10 Oct 27 – 30	Happy (video) Review for Exam 2	
Wk 11 Nov 3 – 6	Exam 2 for Section 002 on Monday (during class) Exam 2 for Section 003 on Tuesday (during class) Chapter 8 “Middle Adulthood” Reading Quiz 8	Due before midnight Sun Nov 16.
Wk 12 Nov 10 – 13	Finish Chapter 8 Chapter 9 “Late Adulthood” Reading Quiz 9	Due before midnight Sun Nov 23.
Wk 13 Nov 17 – 20	Finish Chapter 9 Chapter 10 “Death and Dying” Reading Quiz 10	Due before midnight Sun Nov 30.
Wk 14 Nov 24, 25 (11/26-28 SPC Holidays)	Finish Chapter 10 Activity 5: Your Choice If time allows, begin Adult Analysis Video	Due before midnight Sun Nov 30.
Wk 15 Dec 1 – 4	Finish Adult Analysis Video Review for Exam 3 Submit Adult Analysis Project on Blackboard	Due before midnight Sun. Dec 7.
Wk 16 Dec 8-11 Finals Week	Exam 3 - Section 002: 12/8, Mon., 10:15 AM Exam 3 - Section 003: 12/10, Wed., 1 – 2:15 PM	

Note: To prepare for each week, it is in your best interest to read the assigned chapters on your own. Take detailed notes on these chapters and use any other materials provided. Even on days when nothing is due, you should be reading, studying, viewing supplemental materials, reviewing, or rereading.

You are strongly encouraged to develop a system for keeping up with these deadlines. This might include printing out this document and hanging it in your home. Other options include writing deadlines in your own planner or calendar, adding reminders in your phone or on other devices, or adding reminders/deadlines to the Blackboard calendar on your own.