

**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 (4<sup>th</sup> Edition)*, Lally, M. & Valentine-French, S. (2017). This textbook can be accessed for free by clicking on the following link: <https://www.clcillinois.edu/programs/psy/openeducation>, then clicking on the “View the Lifespan Development: A Psychological Perspective (4<sup>th</sup> Edition) (PDF)”.

**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:** 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: Diane Wittie, M.Ed., Ph.D.

**Course Information:** PSYC 2314-153 (**Online**)

Lifespan Growth and Development – Fall 2025

**Course Website:** Blackboard (southplainscollege.blackboard.com)

**Email Address:** dwittie@southplainscollege.edu

**Blackboard:** This is an **ONLINE** course and will be conducted completely in Blackboard. All assignments, exams, etc. will be submitted in Blackboard. You may use my email address to contact me outside of class time.

**Instructor Office:** Administration Building, #119

**Office Hours:**

Tue. 10 AM – Noon; 1 – 3 PM

Thu. 10 AM – Noon; 1 – 2 PM

Fri. 10 – 11 AM

Alternatively, students can email the instructor to schedule a meeting through Blackboard Collaborate.

**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 an ONLINE modality. Students are expected to follow the course schedule below and log into Blackboard daily to check for announcements and/or any changes to the course schedule. All deadlines are listed on the Course Schedule below. I recommend printing out the Course Schedule and keep it where it is easily accessible (in your private calendar/planner, on your refrigerator, at your desk/work space, etc.).

### **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 fast-pace of this course by completing all assignments, exams and papers/projects on time.*

**Attendance & Administrative Drop Policy:** “Attendance” in this online course is the **active submission of coursework** before the scheduled due date and time (on-time). Due to South Plains College attendance policies, any student who 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 online environment.

**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 take exams and 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 computer skills required to complete this course. Should you encounter technical difficulties contact your instructor immediately or, after hours, **SPC technical support at [blackboard@southplainscollege.edu](mailto: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.

**Communication:** You are expected to frequently (daily) 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 generally 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 5 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. Additionally, at the end of the semester, 5 points will be given to those who complete the anonymous Course Evaluation.

**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](http://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 will be posted in Blackboard.

It is possible to earn up to **465** points in this course. Your grade will be determined by a cumulative point total based on the following grades:

	Amount to be completed	Total Points Possible	Points earned by you this semester
<b>Syllabus Quiz, Introductory Form, &amp; Personal Photo</b>	3 @ 5 points	15	
<b>Activities</b> (i.e. Discussions, Reflections, Journals, etc.)	5 @ 10 points each	50	
<b>Writing Assignment</b>	1 at 100 points each	100	
<b>Adult Development Analysis</b>	1 @ 100 points each	100	
<b>Exams</b> (non-cumulative); If a student misses an exam, they are allowed to take a <i>cumulative final exam</i> in place of the one they missed or a <i>written exam</i> alternative).	3 @ 50 points each	150	
<b>Reading Quizzes</b>	10 @ 5 points each	50	
<b>Total</b>	32 total	<b>465</b>	

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 = 419 – <b>465</b> points B = 372 – 418 points C = 326 – 371 points D = 279 – 325 points F = 0 – 278 points
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**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 and Personal Photo of yourself (preferably a professional-looking head shot). Submission of these tasks are located in the **Week 1 Learning Module** in Blackboard. All are due by **midnight this Sunday, August 31**.

**Activities (50 points):** There will be 5 Activities (Discussions, Reflections, Journals, 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 regarding the *influences on development* throughout the Lifespan. 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. Your composition should follow the guidelines of standard written English, and should follow basic essay format. See Course Calendar for all specific deadlines. More specific instruction will be given in Blackboard.

**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 handout and quiz related to the analysis. More details on this assignment will be provided in Blackboard.

**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. See the course schedule on the following page for dates and times for the exams. If a student misses more than one Exam they may be asked to drop the course.



## Course Calendar: PSYC 2314, Spring 2025 (Online)

### Lifespan Growth & Development

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

DATE	Reading Assignments, Topics, Assignments, Quizzes, Exams:	DUE DATES
<b>Wk 1</b> <b>Aug 25 - 31</b>	Introduction to Course Syllabus Complete Syllabus Quiz Complete Introductory Form & Personal Photo	Quiz, Form & Photo due by <u>midnight</u> , Sun 8/31.
<b>Wk 2</b> <b>Sep 1 – 7</b>	Labor Day Holiday (9/1) Ch 1 "Intro. to Lifespan Development" Reading Quiz 1 Activity 1: Ecological Model	Quiz & Activity due by <u>midnight</u> , Sun 9/14.
<b>Wk 3</b> <b>Sep 8 - 14</b>	Life's Greatest Miracle video (Complete handout.) Ch 2 "Heredity, Prenatal Development, and Birth"	
<b>Wk 4</b> <b>Sep 15 - 21</b>	Ch 2 "Heredity, Prenatal Development, and Birth" Reading Quiz 2 Activity 2: Pregnant Women & Drug Use	Quiz & Activity due by <u>midnight</u> , Sun 9/28.
<b>Wk 5</b> <b>Sep 22 – 28</b>	Ch 3 "Infancy and Toddlerhood" Reading Quiz 3	Quiz due by <u>midnight</u> , Sun 10/5.
<b>Wk 6</b> <b>Sep 29 - Oct 5</b>	Ch 4: "Early Childhood" Reading Quiz 4	Quiz due by <u>midnight</u> , Sun 10/12.
<b>Wk 7</b> <b>Oct 6 – 12</b>	The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope (1 hr., 12 min.) video (Complete handout to keep and use on Exam 1.) Activity 3: ACEs	Activity due by <u>midnight</u> Sun 10/19.
<b>Wk 8</b> <b>Oct 13 – 19</b>	Exam 1 Chapter 5 "Middle and Late Childhood" Reading Quiz 5 Fall Break Holiday (10/17)	Exam 1 and Quiz due by <u>midnight</u> Sun 10/26.
<b>Wk 9</b> <b>Oct 20 – 26</b>	Chapter 6 "Adolescence" Reading Quiz 6 Activity 4: Adolescent Development	Quiz & Activity due by <u>midnight</u> Sun 11/2.
<b>Wk 10</b> <b>Oct 27 - Nov 2</b>	Chapter 7 "Emerging and Early Adulthood" Happy video Reading Quiz 7	Quiz due by <u>midnight</u> Sun 11/9.
<b>Wk 11</b> <b>Nov 3 – 9</b>	Exam 2 Writing Assignment	Exam 2 and Writing Assignment due by <u>midnight</u> Sun 11/16.
<b>Wk 12</b> <b>Nov 10 – 16</b>	Chapter 8 "Middle Adulthood" Reading Quiz 8	Quiz due by <u>midnight</u> Sun 11/23.
<b>Wk 13</b> <b>Nov 17 – 23</b>	Chapter 9 "Late Adulthood" Reading Quiz 9	Quiz due by <u>midnight</u> Sun 11/30.
<b>Wk 14</b> <b>Nov 24 – 30</b>	Adult Analysis Video Adult Analysis Project due Thanksgiving Holidays (11/26 – 28)	Adult Analysis Project due by <u>midnight</u> Sun 12/7.
<b>Wk 15</b> <b>Dec 1 - 7</b>	Chapter 10 "Death and Dying" Activity 5: My Eulogy Reading Quiz 10	Activity and Quiz due by <u>midnight</u> Sun 12/7.
<b>Wk 16</b> <b>Dec. 8 - 11</b>	Exam 3, Due by midnight Mon., Dec. 8	Exam due midnight <b>Monday, DEC. 8.</b>

*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 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.*