

South Plains College
Common Course Syllabus: PSYC 2314 (Lifespan Growth and Development)
FALL 2026
Sections 151 and 452

Department: Behavioral Sciences	Prerequisite: TSI reading compliance for Online
Discipline: Psychology	Available Formats: conventional and online
Course Number: PSYC 2314	Campuses: Levelland, Plainview, Lubbock Campus & Downtown Center, Online & Online Dual-Credit
Course Title: Lifespan Growth and Development	Credit: 3 Lecture: 3 Lab: 0

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

This course partially satisfies a Core Curriculum Requirement: Social and Behavioral Science Foundational Component Area (o8o)

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 should 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: Andrea McCourt 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. Dr. McCourt 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 online 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 dropped from the course with an 'X' or 'F'

Students who enroll in a course but have "Never Attended" by the official census date, as reported by the faculty member, will be administratively dropped by the Office of Admissions and Records. A student who does not meet the attendance requirements of a class as stated in the course syllabus and does not officially withdraw from that course by the official census date of the semester, may be administratively withdrawn from that course and receive a grade of "X" or "F" as determined by the instructor. 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.

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.

Dropping a Course: Students may drop courses through Texan Connect, the Admissions and Records Office, or Advising and Testing Center through the late registration period. After late registration has closed, a student must complete the online [Student Initiated Drop Request](#) to drop a course.

Students may also drop courses in person at any campus location by completing a Student Initiated Drop Form. Complete a [Student Initiated Drop Form](#) and return the signed form to the Levelland Admissions and Records Office, the Student Support Center at the Lubbock Downtown Center, the Lubbock Career and Technical Center, or Plainview Center. You must have a picture ID to complete the drop.

A mark of “W” will be given for student-initiated drops that occur prior to and through the last day to drop as indicated in the online Academic Calendar found here:
<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/academiccalendar/index.php>.

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](#) or <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/index.php>

Instructor's Course Information: PSYC 2314: Lifespan Growth and Development

Name: Dr. Andrea McCourt	Phone Number: (806)716-2458
Office: Levelland - Administration Room 127 Lubbock Downtown Campus Room 2005	Email Address: amccourt@southplainscollege.edu
Course Website: Blackboard (southplainscollege.blackboard.com)	Preferred Contact Information: Because I teach on multiple campuses, email is typically the fastest way to contact me.
Final Exam Time: Students complete the final exam/assignment during Finals Week	
Office Hours: Mondays: 9:00-9:30; 11:00 a.m.-Noon and 1:00-3:00 (Levelland Campus) Tuesdays: 8:30-9:30 a.m. and 1:00-3:00 p.m. (Lubbock Downtown Campus) Wednesdays: 9:00-9:30; 11:00 a.m.-Noon (Levelland Campus) Fridays: Virtual and On-Campus Office Hours by Appointment	

Textbook Information: All reading materials are posted in Blackboard. You will not need to purchase a textbook for this class.

Student Access to Office 365

Microsoft Office 365 is now available to all SPC students. Students will have access to email, file storage, and Microsoft Office applications including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, Publisher, Outlook, Skype and OneDrive by logging into <https://office.com> or <http://portal.office.com/account/#installs> for more apps.

All new student correspondence will be sent to their new o365 email account (student1234@southplainscollege.edu) and also forwarded to their Gmail account that will remain active.

CLASSROOM POLICIES:

Respect for Fellow Students: It is the policy of South Plains College to offer all educational and employment opportunities without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability or age. All students will maintain respect for fellow classmates' personal beliefs, values, morals and life situations. In short, "Bigotry will not be tolerated." (Student Guide)

Disruptive Behavior: Please be respectful of others and their right to learn in a peaceful educational environment. Disruptive behavior includes, but is not limited to creating distractions, talking out of turn, talking with classmates during lecture, wandering in and out of class, chronically showing up late, chronically leaving early, or improper use of technology. "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)

Electronic Devices: Cell phones must be silenced and put away while in the classroom. Devices used for note-taking are permitted, but should be used responsibly and must not create

distractions for you or others. Headphones will not be allowed during class.

Attendance & Administrative Drop Policy: Attendance will be taken during each class meeting. Students will be responsible for material presented and discussed in class. Any student who fails to attend two consecutive weeks during the semester or fails to attempt a minimum of two major grades may be dropped from the course with an 'X' or 'F.'

Academic Integrity: See College Catalog "Offering the work of another as one's own, without proper acknowledgement, is plagiarism..." For further information and examples please see www.plagiarism.org. Handing in work that was submitted for completion of another course will not be permitted. Students found guilty of such academic dishonesty in any form will receive a zero the work in question and will be dropped from the course with an 'F' should a second offense occur.

AI Use Policy: 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. This includes responses to essay questions on exams and weekly discussion questions. 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.

Late work: All assignments are considered late if they are not submitted by 11:59 PM CST on the day they are due. For each week that assignments are late, a 10% deduction in the overall grade for that assignment will be enforced. Please note that some assignments (such as exams) are not accepted late without an excused absence (such as a doctor's note that the student was ill). Assignments will not be accepted after two weeks past the original due date, except with instructor permission. Assignments other than the Final Exam will not be accepted after the last official day of class (May 3).

It is the student's responsibility to plan ahead to submit assignments on time. If you are traveling, etc. and are unsure of your access to the internet, it is strongly recommended that you plan ahead and submit assignments and take quizzes early. If for some reason the Blackboard system is down and the class has trouble accessing the quiz (this is rare but has been known to happen) I will work with the class to create a new due date. The key is this: internet access is required for this course, if you are unsure of your potential access submit early!

At times, extraordinary circumstances (death in the family, verified illness, etc.) may occur in student's lives that impact their assignment submission. In these circumstances, course assignments (e.g., quizzes, written assignments, etc.) might be granted an extension from the instructor. If you feel your circumstances warrant an extension, please email the instructor within one week of the original due date

Methods for Assessing Expected Student Learning Outcomes: Online discussion, quizzes, exams, Adult Development Analysis

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS/GRADING INFORMATION:

Online Discussion (worth up to 200 points or 20% of the course grade):

The Online Discussion component of this course is comprised of weekly Discussion Questions (DQs) and is an important part of class. Most weeks there will be discussion related to the course material. The faculty member posts weekly main discussion questions for the class to discuss. Students are expected to respond to ALL Main DQs. As a general rule, Main DQ responses should be at least 150 words in length. You may not use AI to generate responses to Discussion Questions.

Each week, you are also expected to make at least 2 thoughtful and substantial responses to classmates. Because these responses are interactive in nature, I do not accept these late. All responses submitted after the due date will be given a zero.

I suggest that class members participate in the online discussion at least two times per week. It is a good idea to check in early in the week and again closer to Sunday (the last day of each week of class, except as noted in the Course Schedule). This assures that you are an active member of the class throughout the week and have ample opportunity to interact with other class members. Weekly Discussion will be closed at 11:59 p.m. Central Time on Sunday nights, unless otherwise noted below.

For each Main DQ, you will be graded on (1) your response to the question and (2) your responses to classmates' discussion of that same discussion question (at least two responses are required per discussion question). Weekly Online Discussion will be graded as follows:

Responses to Main DQs (worth up to 60% of the weekly discussion grade) should:

- be made in a timely fashion that gives others an opportunity to respond
- include accurate information and be on topic
- be thoughtful, organized, and analyze the information and/or question
- utilize appropriate language, grammar, and spelling

Responses to Classmates' Postings (worth up to 40% of the weekly discussion grade) should

- or each Main DQ, include at least 2 responses to classmates
- be constructive/supporting
- add to the overall value of the discussion; simply posting a statement of "I thought this week's ideas were neat" or "I agree" will not be given full credit
- utilize appropriate language, grammar, and spelling

NOTE: During a few weeks of the semester, you will be required to use academic research to support your response to the main discussion question. During those weeks, using research will be a part of your weekly grade.

Quizzes (collectively quizzes will be worth a total of 300 points or 30% of the overall course grade):

Most chapters/units will have a quiz primarily based on the textbook to promote your understanding and knowledge of the material. These quizzes will allow you to take stock of your current understanding of the material. Although these are open-book and open-note, I strongly recommend you do the reading and review your notes first and then test your understanding via the quiz. You must work independently on the quizzes. Quizzes are designed to assess your understanding of the course materials.

All quizzes are taken in Blackboard and are timed. Once you start a quiz, you must complete it. You will not be able to log back into a quiz once you have opened it. Please make arrangements to take quizzes on a computer with a secure internet connection. You must take the quizzes individually. Please see the course schedule for due dates.

Exams (worth up to 125 points for each exam for 37.5% of the overall course grade)

These objective (true/false, matching, multiple choice exam) will be taken in Blackboard. Students must take the exam during the class week is posted. Late exams are not accepted without some kind of documentation for the entire week (such as a prolonged illness, etc.).

Adult Development Analysis (worth up to 125 points or 12.5% of the overall course grade)

For this assignment, 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 related to the analysis. More details on this assignment will be provided in class. You may not use AI or search engines such as Google on exams. You cannot work with classmates or receive help from anyone else during this exam.

Make-up exams: Students should make every possible effort to take each exam on the scheduled date and time. If necessary, students may only take one make-up exam during the entire semester. If you will be missing an exam, you must inform the instructor at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled exam time. If students fail to notify the instructor 24 hours prior to the exam, the make-up exam will automatically be scheduled during finals week. If you fail to attend your scheduled make-up, your grade for that exam will be a zero, no exceptions.

Grading Policy & Method of Evaluation: **Summary of Assignments**

Assignment	Possible Points
Online Discussion	200
Online Quizzes	300
Adult Development Analysis	125
Exam 1	125
Exam 2	125
Exam 3	125
Total Points Possible =	1000

Final Grades will be determined by calculating the total amount of points earned by you this semester. Using the scale below, your instructor will determine the corresponding letter grade.

A = 900-1000 points
 B = 800-899 points
 C = 700-799 points
 D = 600-699 points
 F = 599 (or below) points

TENTATIVE COURSE CALENDAR/OUTLINE		
Calendar Week/Dates	Course Topics and Assigned Readings	Assignments <i>(due in Blackboard by 11:59 PM on Sundays unless otherwise noted)</i>
Week One	Overview of Lifespan Growth and Human Development READ: Textbook Chapter titled “Lifespan Development”	Online Discussion
Week Two	Psychological Research READ: Textbook Chapter titled “Psychological Research”	Online Discussion Online Quiz #1
Week Three	Theories of Development READ: Textbook Chapter titled “Developmental Theories”	Online Discussion
Week Four	Development of the Brain READ: Learning materials posted in Blackboard	Online Discussion Online Quiz #2
Week Five	Heredity, Prenatal Development, & Labor and Delivery READ: Textbook Chapter titled “Prenatal Development”	Online Discussion Online Quiz #3
Week Six	EXAM #1	EXAM #1
Week Seven	Physical Development (Infancy Through Adolescence) READ: Textbook Chapter titled “Physical Development Infancy Through Adolescence”	Online Discussion Online Quiz #4

Week Eight	Cognitive Development (Infancy Through Adolescence) READ: Textbook Chapter titled “Cognitive Development Infancy Through Adolescence”	Online Discussion Online Quiz #5
Week Nine	Psychosocial Development (Infancy Through Adolescence) READ: Textbook Chapter titled “Psychosocial Development Infancy Through Adolescence”	Online Discussion Online Quiz #6
Week Ten	EXAM #2	EXAM #2
Week Eleven	Physical Development in Adulthood READ: Textbook Chapter titled “Physical Development in Adulthood”	Online Discussion Online Quiz #7
Week Twelve	Cognitive Development in Adulthood READ: Textbook Chapter titled “Cognitive Development in Adulthood”	Online Discussion Online Quiz #8
Week Thirteen	Psychosocial Development in Adulthood & Death and Dying READ: Textbook Chapter titled “Psychosocial Development in Adulthood”	Quiz #9
Week Fourteen	EXAM #3	EXAM #3
Week Fifteen	Death and Dying	Online Discussion (extra credit)
Final Exams Week	ADULT DEVELOPMENT ANALYSIS (submitted as a Blackboard Quiz) is Due by 11:59 PM on Tuesday, December 8	

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.