

South Plains College
Common Course Syllabus: PSYC 2314
FALL 2026

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 and will be made available on Blackboard.

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, Lifespan Growth and Development**

Course Meeting Times/Location: Section 002, M/W, 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM, ADM150, Levelland, TX
 Section 003, M/W, 1:00 – 2:15 PM, ADM 150, Levelland, TX
 Section 006, T/TH, 1:00 – 2:15 PM, ADM 150, Levelland, TX

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:

Tuesday 9:00 AM - Noon

Wednesday 9:00- 11:00 AM

Thursday 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Friday 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: *WELCOME to a learning environment grounded in community, courtesy, pride, and mutual respect. We are here to work cooperatively and learn together. I am honored to have you in this class and appreciate the time and effort you will invest in this semester.*

*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 a successful semester. Your final grade should reflect the effort you put forth, which requires keeping up with the pace of the course and completing all assignments, exams, and papers/projects on time.*

If you miss a class meeting, you remain responsible for all course content, announcements, and materials covered that day. Because classes are not recorded, you should plan to obtain notes from a classmate.

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 students' 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) 716-2962. Be sure to include your full name, course number, section number and a number where you can be reached when contacting technical support. Computer or Internet problems are **not** valid excuses for missing deadlines, unless a majority of students are affected.

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 or severe violations of disrupting a class will result in the student **being dropped** from the course.” (See Student Guide)

- **Respect others:** Stay focused, avoid side chats, and use technology responsibly.
- **Phones & devices:** Silence phones; use laptops/tablets for notes only. No EarPods are accepted.
- **Be on time:** Come ready to start; if late, enter quietly.

Communication: You are expected to frequently check your SPC email, and any announcements made in Blackboard. 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 always uphold proper and respectful communication with the instructor and fellow classmates. 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 late submissions on a case-by-case basis. An assignment is considered late if it is submitted after the deadline, in an incorrect format (not Microsoft Word), or initially submitted incorrectly. Students must contact the instructor within **14 days** of a missed deadline and provide rationale or documentation. If approved, a revised due date will be assigned; failure to meet that deadline will result in a zero (0).

Extra Credit Activities: There will be one extra credit assignment (worth **3** points) available in Blackboard. You will also receive **3** 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 **365** 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.

	<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>	10	
<i>Activity 2</i>	10	
<i>Activity 3</i>	10	
<i>Activity 4</i>	10	
<i>Activity 5</i>	10	
<i>Writing Assignment</i>	100	
<i>Adult Development Analysis</i>	50	
<i>Exam 1</i>	50	
<i>Exam 2</i>	50	
<i>Exam 3</i>	50	
	365	

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 = 328 – 365 points B = 292 – 327 points C = 255 – 291 points D = 219 – 254 points F = 0 – 218 points
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Syllabus Scavenger Hunt, Introductory form, and Personal Photo (15 points): To help students learn important clauses in the Course Syllabus, a syllabus “scavenger hunt” will be completed in class worth 5 points. Additionally, to allow the instructor to get to know each of the students better, students will complete and submit the Introductory Form (worth 5 points) as well as a personal Photo (worth 5 points) of themselves. The photo can be taken with a smartphone but should look professional in nature. Submission of these tasks are located in the **Week 1 Learning Module** in Blackboard. All are due by **midnight Sunday, Aug 30.**

Activities (50 points, 10 points each): 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 any 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.

Adult Development Analysis (50 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 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 classmates have finished and left, you will not be allowed to take the exam. Make-up exams, if approved, are taken during Final Exam week at the end of the semester.

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.

Course Calendar: PSYC 2314, Sections 002, 003, & 006

Lifespan Growth & Development – FALL 2026

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 24 - 27	Introduction to Course and Syllabus Complete Syllabus Scavenger Hunt (in class) Submit Introductory form Submit Personal Photo	Due before midnight, Sun Aug 30.
Wk 2 Aug 31 – Sep 3	Ch 1 “Intro. to Lifespan Development”, Parts 1 & 2	
Wk 3 Sep 8 - 10 (Sept 7 - SPC Holiday)	Ch 2 “Heredity, Prenatal Development, and Birth”, Parts 1 & 2	
Wk 4 Sep 14 - 17	Ch 3 “Infancy and Toddlerhood”, Parts 1 & 2	
Wk 5 Sep 21 - 24	Exam 1 on Mon for Sections 002 & 003 Exam 1 on Tue for Section 006 Chapter 4: “Early Childhood”, Part I	
Wk 6 Sep 28 – Oct 1	Chapter 4 “Early Childhood”, Parts 2 & 3 “What is Resilience?” video (2:23 min.) https://youtu.be/cqO7YoMscU?si=AaaCP0FaggtanUOG “How Childhood Trauma Affects Health Across a Lifetime”, Dr. Dadine Buke Harris (video: 16 min.) https://youtu.be/95ovIJ3dsNk?si=G9rbibQHD0-o7Qy2	
Wk 7 Oct 5 - 8	Chapter 5 “Middle and Late Childhood”, Parts 1 & 2 <i>Instructions/Planning for Writing Assignment</i>	
Wk 8 Oct 12 – 15 (Oct. 16 – SPC Holiday)	Chapter 5 “Middle and Late Childhood”, Part 3 Chapter 6 “Adolescence”, Part 1	
Wk 9 Oct 19 - 22	Chapter 6, “Adolescence”, Part 2 Chapter 7 “Emerging and Early Adulthood” Part 1	
Wk 10 Oct 26 - 29	Chapter 7 “Emerging and Early Adulthood” Parts 2 & 3	
Wk 11 Nov 2 - 5	Exam 2 on Mon for Sections 002 & 003 Exam 2 on Tue for Section 006 Chapter 8 “Middle Adulthood”, Part 1	
Wk 12 Nov 9 - 12	Chapter 8 “Middle Adulthood”, Part 2 <i>Submit Writing Assignment in class before Nov 12 (or on Blackboard before midnight Nov 15)</i>	Due in class before Nov 12 (or on Blackboard before midnight Nov 15).
Wk 13 Nov 16 - 19	Chapter 9 “Late Adulthood”, Parts 1 & 2	
Wk 14 Nov 23 & 24 (Nov 25 - 27 – SPC Holiday)	Chapter 10 “Death and Dying”, Parts 1 & 2	
Wk 15 Nov 30 – Dec 3	<i>Adult Analysis Video (2 hrs.)</i> Submit <i>Adult Analysis Project</i> in class or when taking Final Exam.	Due in class or when taking the Final Exam.
Wk 16 Dec 7 - 10 Finals Week	Final Exam for Section 002, Mon, Dec 7, 10:15 – 12:15 Final Exam for Section 003, Wed, Dec 9, 10:15 – 12:15 Final Exam for Section 006, Thu, Dec 10, 10:15 – 12:15	

Note: To help you stay prepared, plan to complete the assigned readings, take notes, and review course materials each week—even when no assignments are due. Using a planner, calendar, phone reminders, or the Blackboard calendar can help you stay organized and on track. Or keep this page of the syllabus **within easy reach**—printing it out can make it easier to track deadlines and stay organized.