

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 (4th 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 (4th 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:

As per the *SPC General Catalog*: Students are expected to attend all classes in order to be successful in a course. The student may be administratively withdrawn from the course when absences become excessive as defined in the course syllabus.

When an unavoidable reason for class absence arises, such as illness, an official trip authorized by the college or an official activity, the instructor may permit the student to make up work missed. It is the student's responsibility to complete work missed within a reasonable period of time as determined by the instructor. Students are officially enrolled in all courses for which they pay tuition and fees at the time of registration. Should a student, for any reason, delay in reporting to a class after official enrollment, absences will be attributed to the student from the first-class meeting.

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.

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, Knowledge Checkzes, 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, Knowledge Check, 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.

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

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, Sections 153 (Online)

Lifespan Growth and Development – Fall 2026

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:

Tuesday 9:00 AM to Noon

Wednesday 9:00 to 11:00 AM

Thursday 10:00 AM – Noon

Friday 10:00 – 11:00 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. All deadlines are listed in the Course Schedule below. I recommend printing out the Course Schedule and keeping 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 the very best 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.

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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 as well as **SPC technical support at blackboard@southplainscollege.edu** or call (806) 894-9611, ext. 2180. When contacting technical support, please include your full name, course number, section, and phone number where you can be reached. Technical issues can happen, so it's best to plan ahead—these issues won't qualify for extensions or make-ups unless they affect the entire campus.

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 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.

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. If you miss a deadline, please contact your instructor within **10 days** and provide a brief explanation or documentation for the missed assignment. If your request is approved, a new due date will be set for either the original assignment or an alternative of equal value. It's important to meet this revised deadline, as assignments not submitted by that date will receive a zero (0). Reaching out promptly helps me support you and keep you on track.

Extra Credit Opportunities: There will be **one** extra credit assignment (worth **3** points) available on Blackboard. Additionally, students will receive 3 points for completing the Course Evaluations 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 Knowledge Checklet, 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: There are now websites that will generate semi-unique material that somewhat resembles original material. Since technology is available to create this content, technology is also available to detect this content. Such content is plagiarism and will receive a grade of **zero**. Incidents of this nature will be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action.

Grading Policy & Method of Evaluation: All grades will be posted on 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:

	Total Possible Points to Earn:	Your points:
Syllabus Quiz	5	
Introductory form	5	
Personal photo	5	
Activity 1	10	
Activity 2	10	
Activity 3	10	
Activity 4	10	
Activity 5	10	
Writing Assignment	100	
Adult Analysis Project	50	
Exam 1	50	
Exam 2	50	
Exam 3	50	
Knowledge Check 1	10	
Knowledge Check 2	10	
Knowledge Check 3	10	
Knowledge Check 4	10	
Knowledge Check 5	10	
Knowledge Check 6	10	
Knowledge Check 7	10	
Knowledge Check 8	10	
Knowledge Check 9	10	
Knowledge Check 10	10	
TOTAL	465	

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

A = 418 – 465 points B = 372 – 417 points C = 325 – 371 points D = 279 – 324 points F = 0 – 278 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 help your instructor get to know you, please complete and submit the Introductory Form and a Personal Photo (preferably a “professional-looking” headshot). Submission of these tasks are located in the **Week 1 Learning Module** in Blackboard. All are due **by midnight Sunday, Sep. 6.**

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 choose one of two topics provided by the instructor and write a short paper on it. The paper should be double-spaced with 12-point font, 1-inch margins, and follow standard written English and a basic essay format. See the Course Calendar for specific deadlines.

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 Knowledge Check related to the analysis. More details on this assignment will be provided in Blackboard.

Knowledge Checks (100 points): There will be 10 Knowledge Checks (each worth 10 points) to help students prepare for the exams. Each Knowledge Check will have 10 multiple-choice or true/false questions covering the content of each chapter. Each Knowledge Check is timed for **15 minutes**, remains available for two weeks, and must be completed by Sunday at midnight. See the Course Schedule for specific due dates.

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, Sections 153, Fall 2026

Lifespan Growth & Development (online)

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

DATE	Reading Assignments, Topics, Assignments, Knowledge Checks, Exams:	DUE DATES
Wk 1 Aug 24 - 30	Read the Syllabus carefully. Complete Syllabus Knowledge Check. Complete Introductory Form & Personal Photo	Knowledge Check, Form & Photo due by <u>midnight</u> , Sun Sep. 6.
Wk 2 Aug 31 – Sep 6	Ch 1 “Intro. to Lifespan Development” Knowledge Check 1 Activity 1	Knowledge Check & Activity due by <u>midnight</u> , Sun Sep 13.
Wk 3 Sep 7 – 13 (SPC holiday on Sep 7)	Ch 2 “Heredity, Prenatal Development, and Birth”	
Wk 4 Sep 14 - 20	Ch 2 “Heredity, Prenatal Development, and Birth” Knowledge Check 2 Activity 2	Knowledge Check & Activity due by <u>midnight</u> , Sun Sep. 27.
Wk 5 Sep 21 - 27	Ch 3 “Infancy and Toddlerhood” Knowledge Check 3	Knowledge Check due by <u>midnight</u> , Sun Oct 4.
Wk 6 Sep 28 – Oct 4	Ch 4: “Early Childhood” Knowledge Check 4	Knowledge Check due by <u>midnight</u> , Sun Oct. 11.
Wk 7 Oct 5 - 11	Video regarding ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) Activity 3: ACEs	Activity due by <u>midnight</u> Sun Oct 18.
Wk 8 Oct 12 – 18 (Oct. 16 – SPC Holiday)	Exam 1 Chapter 5 “Middle and Late Childhood” Knowledge Check 5	Exam 1 and Knowledge Check due by <u>midnight</u> Sun Oct 25.
Wk 9 Oct 19 - 25	Chapter 6 “Adolescence” Knowledge Check 6 Activity 4	Knowledge Check & Activity due by <u>midnight</u> Sun Nov 1.
Wk 10 Oct 26 – Nov 1	Chapter 7 “Emerging and Early Adulthood” Happy video Knowledge Check 7	Knowledge Check due by <u>midnight</u> Sun Nov 8.
Wk 11 Nov 2 - 8	Exam 2 Writing Assignment	Exam 2 and Writing Assignment due by <u>midnight</u> Sun Nov 15.
Wk 12 Nov 9 - 15	Chapter 8 “Middle Adulthood” Knowledge Check 8	Knowledge Check due by <u>midnight</u> Sun Nov 22.
Wk 13 Nov 16 - 22	Chapter 9 “Late Adulthood” Knowledge Check 9	Knowledge Check due by <u>midnight</u> Sun Nov 29.
Wk 14 Nov 23 & 24 (Nov 25-27 – SPC Holidays)	Adult Analysis Video Adult Analysis Project due	Adult Analysis Project due by <u>midnight</u> Sun Dec 6.
Wk 15 Nov 30 – Dec 6	Chapter 10 “Death and Dying” Activity 5 Knowledge Check 10	Activity and Knowledge Check due by <u>midnight</u> Sun Dec 6.
Dec 7 - 10 Finals Week	Exam 3 , Due by midnight TUESDAY Dec 8	Exam 3 due midnight TUESDAY Dec 8 .

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Note: To stay prepared each week, read the assigned chapters, take notes, and use any supplemental materials. Even when nothing is due, review or engage with course content. Develop a system to track deadlines, such as using a planner, calendar, phone reminders, or the Blackboard calendar. Printing this Course Schedule for easy reference can also be helpful.