

South Plains College
Common Course Syllabus: PSYC 2314-Lifespan Growth and Development
Summer I 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 Dual Credit

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 in Blackboard.

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 responsible for assessing the student learning outcomes (SLOs). 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 the entry of the data into the 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 designated by the instructor of record.

Attendance/Engagement Policy:

To be successful in this course, students are expected to participate every week. "Participation" (or engagement) includes attending class in the online environment, submitting weekly assignments, and completing any required make-up work.

In accordance with South Plains College attendance policies, students who do not participate for three consecutive weeks or who do not attempt at least two major grades during the semester may be required to withdraw (drop) from the course.

Students who register for a course but are reported as "Never Attended" by the official census date may also be administratively dropped from the course.

Instructors will clearly explain their specific attendance and drop policies in the course syllabus. However, it is the student's responsibility to read and understand these policies.

Students are also responsible for checking their enrollment status in MySPC to confirm whether any administrative drops have occurred due to excessive absences.

If a student receives financial aid for a course they never attend or participate in, their aid will be adjusted to reflect only the courses they did attend. This may result in a balance owed to the college.

Please refer to the instructor's Course Information Sheet for any additional attendance requirements.

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 diversity, disabilities, intellectual exchange, non-discrimination, Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations, CARE Team, and Campus Concealed Carry Statements can be found here: [Syllabus Statements \(southplainscollege.edu\)](https://www.southplainscollege.edu/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 2314-154 and PSYC 2314-451 **Lifespan Growth & Development, Summer I 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.

Office Hours: Students may contact the instructor via email to schedule a meeting through Blackboard Collaborate, arrange a phone meeting, or request an in-person appointment.

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

Instructor's Course Policies:

Course Structure: This course is delivered as an ONLINE modality. Hence, 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 keeping it where it is easily accessible (in your private calendar/planner, on your refrigerator, at your desk or work space, etc.).

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.*

A key to success in college is maintaining open communication with your instructor. Please feel free to email me whenever you need assistance or support in this course. I encourage you to stay current with readings, assignments, exams, papers, and projects so you do not fall behind in this fast-paced class. Completing all work on time will help you stay on track and perform your best.

I wish you a productive semester and hope your final grade reflects your effort and engagement throughout the course.

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 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. Be sure to include your full name, course number, section number and a number where you can be reached when contacting technical support.

Communication: You are expected to frequently (daily is a good rule of thumb) check your SPC email and Blackboard for new announcements and/or communication. 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 the written work done on the course, including discussions and assignments.

Late Work: Late assignments are generally not accepted after the established deadline. However, extensions may be granted if the student obtains prior approval and provides appropriate documentation when required. Students have **7 days** to contact the instructor about a missed deadline. Either the original assignment or an alternative assignment of equivalent value will be available. Should the student fail to meet the revised deadline, a score of zero (0) will be assigned for the assignment.

Extra Credit Activities: There will be **one** extra credit assignment (worth 3 points) available on Blackboard.

Academic Integrity: In addition to the Plagiarism and Cheating policy in the Common Course Syllabus, 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: There are now websites that will generate semi-unique material that resembles original material. Since technology is available to create this content, technology is also available to detect this content. Such content is considered plagiarism and will receive a zero grade. Incidents of this nature will be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action. Consequently, students may be required to give verbal mastery of the plagiarized content to the instructor.

Grading Policy & Method of Evaluation: All grades and feedback on coursework will be delivered on Blackboard. You will find these posted in the My Grades area of our Blackboard course.

It is possible to earn up to **345** points in this course. Your grade will be determined by a cumulative point total based on the following grades. Use the far-right column to keep up with your points throughout the semester.

	Total Points Possible	Log your own Points here:
Syllabus Quiz	5	
Introductory Form	5	
Personal Photo (professional looking headshot)	5	
Activity #1	10	
Activity #2	10	
Activity #3	10	
Writing Assignment	100	
Knowledge Check 1	20	
Knowledge Check 2	20	
Knowledge Check 3	10	
Exam 1	50	
Exam 2	50	
Exam 3	50	
Total	345	

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 = 310 – **345** points

B = 276 – 309 points

C = 241 – 308 points

D = 207 – 240 points

F = 206 and below

Due dates for each of the following tasks are listed in the Course Calendar on the final page of the syllabus.

Syllabus Quiz, Introductory Form, and Personal Photo: 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 the **Introductory Form** and upload a current **Personal Photo** of yourself in the **Week 1 Learning Module** in Blackboard.

Activities: There will be 3 Activities (Discussions, Reflections, etc.) throughout the semester. Make sure you will be well prepared for these activities by reading the assigned course readings.

Writing Assignment: Students will complete one formal but concise writing assignment on a topic of their choice. The paper must be double-spaced, use 12-point font, and include 1-inch margins. Full instructions will be provided in Blackboard.

Knowledge Checks: Students will complete timed Knowledge Checks in preparation for Exams. Students are given 3 attempts to complete each Knowledge Check.

Exams: 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. A 60-minute timer is set in Blackboard for you to complete the exams. Once you begin an exam, you will NOT be able to exit out of it. Make sure you are prepared and ready to complete the exam in one sitting. You can use your textbook and any course notes to complete the exams.

Course Calendar: PSYC-2314-154 and PSYC-2314-451 – Summer I
Lifespan Growth & Development

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MAY 31 Open Blackboard & familiarize yourself with the course.	JUNE 1 Read Syllabus. Take Syllabus Quiz .	2 Read Chapters 1 and 2.	3 Upload Personal Photo .	4 Complete Introductory Form .	5 Complete Activity 1 .	6
7 Due before midnight: Syllabus Quiz Personal Photo Introductory Form Activity 1	8 Read Chapters 3 and 4. Begin Writing Assignment.	9	10	11 Complete Knowledge Check 1 .	12 Complete Exam 1 .	13 Complete Activity 2 .
14 Due before midnight: Knowledge Ck 1 Exam 1 Activity 2	15 Read Chapters 5 and 6.	16	17	18 <i>Finish Writing Assignment.</i>	19 SPC HOLIDAY	20 Complete Activity 3 .
21 Due before midnight: Writing Assignment Activity 3	22 Read Chapters 7 and 8.	23	24	25 Complete Knowledge Check 2 .	26 Complete Exam 2 .	27
28 Due before midnight: Knowledge Ck 2 Exam 2	29 Read Chapters 9 and 10.	30	JULY 1 Complete Knowledge Ck 3 before midnight tonight.	2 Complete EXAM 3 before midnight tonight. Last day of class. 😊	3 SPC HOLIDAY (Final grades submitted to transcripts before by 10 AM, July 6.)	4