

South Plains College
Common Course Syllabus: PSYC 2314
Spring 2026 – 1st 8 wks.

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:

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).

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.

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 181 & 471 (Online)

Lifespan Growth and Development – Spring I 2025 (8 wk. course)

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 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Wednesday 10:00 – 11:00 AM and 1:00 to 2:00 PM

Thursday 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Friday 9:00 – 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 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.*

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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. Be sure to include your full name, course number, section number and a number where you can be reached when contacting technical support. While technical challenges can happen, students are responsible for ensuring they have reliable access and understand how to use required tools. These issues do not qualify for deadline 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.

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. Late exams can only be made up during Finals Week. If you miss a deadline, please contact the instructor within **14 days** and provide documentation explaining the situation. If approved, you will be given a new due date for either the original assignment or an alternative assignment of equal value. Please note that if the revised deadline is not met, a zero (0) will be assigned for the work.

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

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: 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. Make no mistake, this is plagiarism. The instructor is not asking AI to write any written portion of this course's requirements, but is asking you the student, to create this content.

If the student submits work obtained by using AI or is suspected of utilizing AI, it will be considered plagiarism and 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 **415** 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	
Exam 1	50	
Exam 2	50	
Exam 3	50	
Reading Quiz 1	10	
Reading Quiz 2	10	
Reading Quiz 3	10	
Reading Quiz 4	10	
Reading Quiz 5	10	
Reading Quiz 6	10	
Reading Quiz 7	10	
Reading Quiz 8	10	
Reading Quiz 9	10	
Reading Quiz 10	10	
	415	

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 = 373 – 415 points
B = 332 – 372 points
C = 290 – 331 points
D = 249 – 289 points
F = 0 – 248 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 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 Sunday, January 26**.

Activities (50 points): There will be 5 Activities (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 various course concepts from Lifespan development and how they apply to real life. The assignment should be double-spaced with 12-point font and use 1-inch margins. The composition should follow the guidelines of standard written English and should follow basic essay format. See Course Calendar for all specific deadlines. More specific instructions will be given 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. Make-up exams are only given during Final Exam Week.

Course Calendar: PSYC 2314 – Sections 181 & 471, Spring I, 2026 (Online)
Lifespan Growth & Development

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

DATE	TASKS: Reading Assignments, Topics, Assignments, Quizzes, Exams:	DUE DATES
Wk 1 Jan 12-18	Introduction to Course Read the Syllabus Complete Syllabus Quiz Complete Introductory Form & Personal Photo Read Ch 1 "Intro. to Lifespan Development" Complete Reading Quiz 1 Complete Activity 1: Ecological Model	All tasks are due by <u>midnight</u> , Sun Jan 25.
Wk 2 Jan 20 – 25 <i>(MLK, Jr. Holiday on Jan 19)</i>	Read Ch 2 "Heredity, Prenatal Development, and Birth" Complete Reading Quiz 2 Complete Activity 2: Pregnant Women & Drug Use Begin planning your Writing Assignment	All tasks are due by <u>midnight</u> , Sun Feb 1.
Wk 3 Jan 26 – Feb 1	Read Ch 3 "Infancy and Toddlerhood" Complete Reading Quiz 3 Read Ch 4: "Early Childhood" Complete Reading Quiz 4	All tasks are due by <u>midnight</u> , Sun Feb 8.
Wk 4 Feb 2 – 8	Complete Activity 3: ACEs Complete Exam 1 Read Chapter 5 "Middle and Late Childhood" Complete Reading Quiz 5 Submit Writing Assignment	All tasks are due by <u>midnight</u> , Sun Feb 15.
Wk 5 Feb 9 -15	Read Chapter 6 "Adolescence" Complete Reading Quiz 6 Complete Activity 4: Adolescent Development Read Chapter 7 "Emerging and Early Adulthood" See the video: Happy Complete Reading Quiz 7 Complete Exam 2	All tasks are due before <u>midnight</u> Sun Feb 22.
Wk 6 Feb 16 - 22	Read Chapter 8 "Middle Adulthood" Complete Reading Quiz 8 Read Chapter 9 "Late Adulthood" Complete Reading Quiz 9	All tasks are due before <u>midnight</u> Sun Mar 1.
Wk 7 Feb 23 – Mar 1	Read Chapter 10 "Death and Dying" Complete Activity 5: Your choice Complete Reading Quiz 10	All tasks due by <u>midnight</u> SUNDAY Mar 1.
Wk 8 Mar 2 - 5	Exam 3 is due before midnight Monday, March 2.	Exam 3 due before <u>midnight</u> , MONDAY Mar 2.

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Note: To stay on track each week, complete the assigned readings and take notes in the style that works best for you. Even when no assignments are due, you should still be reading, studying, reviewing, or watching supplemental content. Plan ahead by using a system that works for you—such as a planner, calendar, phone reminders, or the Blackboard calendar—to keep up with deadlines.