

PSY 322: Understanding Human Development

Fall 2012

Instructor: Dr. Lacy Krueger

Email Address: Lacy.Krueger@tamuc.edu

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm (Binnion 220), Thursday 2 pm – 4 pm (Mesquite Metroplex 107), and by appointment

Phone Number: 903-468-3286

Fax: (903) 886-5510

Required Textbook: Essentials of Life-Span Development (2nd edition) by John W. Santrock. (ISBN: 978-0073532073)

eCollege: Course materials, including an electronic version of the syllabus and supplementary information, will be posted on eCollege.

About the Course: Understanding Human Development is a developmental psychology course that examines the changes, both growth and decline, across the human lifespan from conception to death. It includes physical, cognitive, and socioemotional changes that help to shape our lives. Topics include the importance of the prenatal environment on development, formation of language, self-esteem and identity, romantic relationships, retirement, and dying. What you will find is that our journey through life is incredible –from learning to walk to compensating for physical declines in later life.

Course Philosophy: I believe that courses should be both educational and enjoyable. This course is informative. You will learn how a being grows from a few cells to a walking, talking individual that eventually forms an own identity and pursues one's own dreams! What can be more fascinating? ☺

Course Objectives:

1. Understand the physical, cognitive, and socioemotional changes that occur across the eight major stages of development – prenatal, infancy, early childhood, mid-late childhood, adolescence, early adulthood, middle adulthood, and late adulthood
2. Recognize the importance of lifespan development research along with understanding how this research is conducted, including research methodology and ethical issues
3. Identify the impact of culture and diversity on development
4. Further develop communication skills to discuss and critique psychological research
5. Relate knowledge learned in this course about human development to the real world

Course Assignments:

- 1) **Exams** – Three exams and a cumulative final will be administered, each worth 20%. Therefore, exams are worth 80% of your grade.
- 2) **Older Adults & Media Assignment** – Students will select an example of the portrayal of older adults (age 60+) in the media (e.g., movies, TV, music, comic). Students will provide a summary of the example (e.g., describe and provide the comic, describe an older character in the movie and a particular action performed by that character, etc.). You will relate the example to knowledge from the text about late adulthood, including physical, cognitive, and/or socioemotional issues. In particular, you will be assessing whether the example is a true representation or an exaggeration of physical, cognitive, and socioemotional changes in older adulthood. Students should be prepared to discuss this assignment. Additional information about this assignment can be found on the eCollege website. This assignment is worth 5%.
- 3) **Culture and Diversity Poster** – Groups will create a poster on a topic of lifespan development and culture/diversity issues. Each group will present on a unique topic (i.e., no duplication of topics between groups). For example, a group might research cultural differences in expressing grief; emerging adulthood across cultures; perceptions of older adults among eastern vs. western cultures; cross-cultural differences in parenting styles, etc. Groups will present their poster in an in-class poster exhibition. The posters will also be hung on display in Henderson Hall, 2nd floor. Additional information about this assignment can be found on the eCollege website. This assignment is worth 15%.
- 4) **Research Exposure** – All students will be exposed to laboratory-based research either by a) participating in research studies within the Psychology participant pool, or, b) writing a summary on a research article related to developmental psychology published in one of the journals listed on http://www.psychwatch.com/develop_journals.htm. You must participate in six hours of research studies by signing up for studies via the Experiment Management System, or complete an equivalent number of reading summaries, with one summary equaling 1 hour of research participation. Failure to complete the research exposure requirement results in a deduction of one full letter grade at the end of the term. To incentivize you to show up on time for the research studies, if you show up on time for every study you sign up for, you only need to complete a total of four (rather than six) hours of research. Some studies are in the form of online surveys, and up to half of your participation can be done online. More information about the research expectations will be provided by the participant pool administrators.

Grade Distribution:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percent</u>
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	Below 60

Course Policies

"All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment" (*Code of Student Conduct' from online Student Guide Handbook- <http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/studentlife/guidebook%201.pdf>*)

Plagiarism: Texas A & M University-Commerce views plagiarism as a serious offense. Plagiarism occurs when individuals take ideas and/or words from another source and claim these ideas as their own without giving credit to the original author(s). This can include copying words from an Internet website, reading an article and taking the authors ideas without giving them credit, or writing work that is remarkably similar to other written work (e.g., Changing words to synonyms is still plagiarism). If any written work contains ideas that are not your own, you need to give credit to the author(s) by including citations. Instructors are obligated to report instances of plagiarism to university officials. Please refer to the American Psychology Association (APA) manual for instructions on citing materials. When in doubt about citing materials consult with Dr. Krueger. Ignorance will not be tolerated as an excuse for plagiarism. The first offense of plagiarism will result in a zero on the assignment. Additional accounts of plagiarism will result in an automatic zero in the course.

Scholarly Expectations: All works submitted for credit must be original works created by the student uniquely for the class. It is considered inappropriate and unethical to make duplicate submissions of a single work for credit in multiple classes, unless specifically requested by the instructor. Submitted work should demonstrate higher-order thinking skills and be of high quality. Furthermore, cheating on an exam will not be tolerated. The first offense of cheating on an exam will result in an automatic zero on the exam. The second offense will result in an automatic zero in the course.

Attendance: Research has shown that class attendance is critical to learning. The instructor will drop a student from the course if the student has **4 or more unexcused absences**. Please note that absences will only be excused with documented proof (e.g., doctor's note). Arriving late to class may also count as an absence.

Make-up Exams: No make-up exams will be given!

Late Work: I have a strict late work policy for the older adult and poster projects. If a late assignment is turned in within 24 hours of the due date, a 10-point penalty will be imposed. If the assignment is turned in between 24-48 hours of the due date, a 20-point penalty will be imposed. If the assignment is submitted more than 48 hours late, it will automatically be scored as a zero (i.e., no credit granted).

Please note that computer issues will not be considered as an excuse for failing to submit any assignment on time. It is the student's responsibility to make sure that assignments are turned in on time. Therefore, do not wait until the very end to complete an assignment.

Extra Credit Opportunities: You may earn extra credit by participating in additional research experiments in the department or completing additional research summaries. You can complete up to 3 additional hours of research participation for extra credit and/or summarize up to 3 additional journal articles published within the last five years. Please note that **I do not bump up grades**. For example, if

you earn an 89 in the course, you will receive a B. This is your opportunity to bump up your own grade and learn more about cutting edge research! ☺ I strongly encourage you to take advantage of these extra credit opportunities.

Etiquette/Netiquette: Offensive language in class and aggressive correspondence online will not be tolerated. Students are expected to be respectful of others' opinions when communicating. Rule of thumb: Just be nice and courteous. ☺

Class Conduct: Please remember to turn off your cell phone or set it to silent (not vibrate). If you are expecting an urgent call (e.g., family member is having surgery, partner serving overseas is expected to call, etc.), please let me know before the class starts about the issue and we can make arrangements. Text messaging and instant messaging are prohibited. If you bring a laptop to class, you must limit it to class-relevant use (e.g., typing notes). ***I will ask you to leave the classroom if you are engaging in off-task behaviors.***

Technical Support: This course is supported by Texas A&M University–Commerce through the eCollege course management system. There is a Student Orientation Tutorial in eCollege if you are unfamiliar with it. If you have technology questions please contact the eCollege HelpDesk, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by clicking the HelpDesk link in the Help pages in eCollege or by sending an email directly to helpdesk@online.tamuc.org. You may also reach the HelpDesk by calling (toll-free) 1-866-656-5511.

Students with Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact: **Office of Student Disability Resources and Services, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Gee Library, Room 132, Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835; Fax (903) 468-8148, StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu**

Undergraduate Graduation Checklist:

<http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/registrar/pdfs/UndergradChecklist.pdf>

1. Total Hours for degree met? (Must be at least 120 hrs)
2. Required Institutional-25% of course work taken at TAMU-Commerce?
3. Last Number Institutional Required-24 out of last 30 hrs?
4. Overall GPA at least 2.00 (2.50 for Certification Students)?
5. University Studies Met?
6. Major (plus support if applicable) Course Requirements Met?
7. Major GPA is at least 2.00 (2.50 for Certification Students)?
8. Major Required courses have C's or better?
9. At least 6 hours are advanced in Major?
10. All Certification Requirements Met? (Internship/Residency/Etc.)
11. 2nd Major (plus support if applicable) Course Requirements Met?
12. 2nd Major GPA is at least 2.00 (2.50 for Certification Students)?
13. Minor (plus support if applicable) Requirements Met?
14. Minor GPA is at least 2.00 (2.50 for Certification Students)?

15. Junior Level Essay Met?
16. Senior Level Check Met (minimum 60 hrs)?
17. Advanced Hour Check Met?
18. 24 Advanced Hours taken at TAMU-Commerce?
19. A&M Commerce GPA 2.00 Met (2.50 for Certification Students)?

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
8/27 (M)	Syllabus/Introductions	No Reading	
8/29 (W)	Lifespan Perspective Introduction	Ch. 1	
9/3 (M)	None (Labor Day)	None	
9/5 (W)	Biological Beginnings	Ch. 2	
9/10 (M)	Infancy - Physical & Cognitive	Ch. 3	
9/12 (W)	Infancy – Socioemotional	Ch. 4	
9/17 (M)	Early Childhood - Physical & Cognitive	Ch. 5	
9/19 (W)	Early Childhood – Socioemotional	Ch. 6	
9/24 (M)	Exam 1	--	In-class exam over chapter 1-6
9/26 (W)	Middle Childhood - Physical & Cognitive	Ch. 7	
10/1 (M)	Middle Childhood - Socioemotional	Ch. 8	
10/3 (W)	Adolescence - Physical & Cognitive	Ch. 9	
10/8 (M)	Adolescence – Socioemotional	Ch. 10	
10/10 (W)	Early Adulthood - Physical & Cognitive	Ch. 11	
10/15 (M)	Early Adulthood – Socioemotional	Ch. 12	
10/17 (W)	Exam 2	--	In-class exam over chapters 7-12
10/22 (M)	Middle Adulthood - Physical & Cognitive	Ch. 13	
10/24 (W)	Middle Adulthood - Socioemotional	Ch. 14	
10/29 (M)	Late Adulthood - Physical & Cognitive	Ch. 15	
10/31 (W)	Late Adulthood – Socioemotional	Ch. 16	
11/5 (M)	Death & Dying	Ch. 17	
11/7 (W)	Exam 3	--	In-class exam over chapters 13-17
11/12 (M)	Research Day (finding scholarly articles)	No Reading	**Meet in library**
11/14 (W)	Perceptions of Older Adults in Media	No Reading	Older Adults & Media Project
11/19 (M)	Perceptions of Older Adults in Media, Cont.	No Reading	
11/21 (W)	University closed after noon (No class)	No Reading	
11/26 (M)	Poster project workshop	No Reading	
11/28 (W)	Poster Exhibition	No Reading	Poster project (all groups)
12/3 (M)	Poster Exhibition, cont.	No Reading	
12/5 (W)	Course Wrap-Up/Reflections	No Reading	
TBA	Cumulative Final Exam	--	In-class exam over chapters 1-17

Applications