



**Psychology: Lifespan Development: SUM I 2015 (3 credits)**  
**PSY 322.001 MW 12:00pm-4:00pm Location: Henderson Hall – H206**

**Instructor:** George Swindell, M.S.

**Office Location:** Binnion 225

**Office Hours:** MW 4:00pm – 5:00pm, and/or by appointment.

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**Catalog Course Description:** The course follows the lifespan development of the individual, emphasizing the theoretical and experimental approaches to the study of cognitive, personality, social, perceptual, and physical components of development from conception to death.

**Student Learning Outcome:**

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

**Required Textbook:**

Santrock, J. W. (2015). *Essentials of life-span development (4th ed)*. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill. (ISBN: 9780077861933)

**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@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)

## **Administrative Policies and Requirements:**

**Attendance.** Attendance in this course is mandatory. There will be class demonstrations, discussions, and films designed to enrich your learning experience. And further, the text for this course is thick with information: coming to class will help clarify concepts and focus your studying. Each student will be allowed up to 3 unexcused absences; if you have **more than 3 unexcused absences** your grade will be reduced by one full letter grade. For every 3 additional unexcused absences your grade will be reduced by one full additional letter grade. All absences will be considered unexcused except as mandated by University policy for University excused absences, religious holidays and major illnesses. In addition, students that are **15 or more minutes late** for class will be considered absent.

**Email.** All Students should activate and regularly check their Leo Mail (e-mail account) and eCollege accounts associated with this class. All class communication will be done through Leo Mail/eCollge. I **WILL NOT** send communication about the class to personal email accounts. If you email me and do not receive an email response within 48 hours, most likely, your email was not received. I will respond to all emails within 24 hours on weekdays.

**Late Assignments:** Late assignments will **NOT** be accepted unless you have provided adequate documentation allowing your absence to be excused. Also, students will **NOT** be allowed to make up exams unless the absence is considered excused. In the event your absence is excused, the missing assignment or exam must be completed **within 1 week** of the original due date.

**Drop Policy.** Students are responsible for officially dropping/withdrawing themselves from the course; failure to do so will result in a performance grade of “F”. Please refer to the academic calendar in order to be aware of drop dates.

### **Grading:**

1) **Exams:** There will be a total of four(4) exams. Each exam will be comprised of multiple choice questions with the possibility of having short answer/essay type questions. Each exam is worth a total 100 points (400 points total).

2) **Infant Toy Assignment:** Students will provide a summary about an infant toy that is currently available for purchase. Students will describe how the toy relates to physical, cognitive, and socioemotional development in infancy. The assignment should be 2-3 pages, double-spaced, and written in APA style. Evidence from the text must be included to support your claims. This assignment will be worth 100 points.

3) **Observations Journal** – The journal should include a write-up of personal observations that link 4 different stages of the lifespan (i.e., infancy, early childhood, mid-late childhood, adolescence, early adulthood, middle adulthood, and late adulthood) to information presented in the course. For example, you might be at a store and overhear a teenage girl tell her mom that “she couldn’t possibly wear jeans to a party because everyone would notice her.” You would describe the scene (not identifying the individuals, of course, but instead Teenager 1 and Adult 1) and describe how this scene relates to this particular portion of the lifespan. In this case, you could relate it to the imaginary audience and reference the section in the textbook. **\*\*Note:** It is unethical to intervene in the situation or be intrusive. You should merely be a passive observer. **\*\*** Sometimes your observations will involve multiple individuals in different parts of the lifespan such as mother and teenage daughter, as in the aforementioned example. Be sure to identify each of these and explain particular issues in the lifespan related to their stages of

development. The journal should be between 2-5 double-spaced pages, not including title page and reference page, in APA style. This assignment will be worth 100 points.

**4) Attendance/Participation/In-class Activities:** Throughout the term there will be in class discussions and activities that will be used to expand the content of the course. Participation in these activities will be expected. As well, in order to participate students must be present in class. Thus, attendance in class, participation in discussions and activities will be worth a total of 100 points.

### **Grade Assignments**

A = 630-700 points

B = 560-629 points

C = 490-559 points

D = 420-489 points

F = < 420 points

### **Student Conduct:**

“All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.” Students are expected to follow the code of conduct in class described in the Student Handbook (Policies and Procedures, Code of Student Conduct). Violation of the code will lead to an initiation of the disciplinary processes described in the Handbook. Proper student conduct also includes maintaining a standard of academic honesty. This means that neither cheating nor plagiarism will be tolerated and students who engage in either will be subject to the disciplinary processes described in the Code of Student Conduct). Plagiarism essentially means that you cannot use the words and ideas of another person without giving them credit. Therefore, “quotation marks should be used to indicate the exact words of another. Each time you paraphrase another author you will need to credit the source in the text” (APA, 2001, p. 249). If you have any questions about what constitutes cheating or plagiarism please see me. Students who plagiarize any material or engage in cheating will earn a grade of F for the course.

Students will be assigned seating by the instructor. If students are not in their assigned seat during a given class period they will be marked absent. The instructor reserves the right to change the seating arrangement at any time during the semester. Students who are tardy to class are required to sit in the designated area so their attendance may be verified at the end of class. Anyone more than 15 minutes late to class is considered absent for the day.

**Cell Phones/Laptops/Other forms of Technology.** Cell phones must be turned off or placed on silent during class. If you have an emergency and may need to take a call during class, please see me prior to the beginning of class and leave your cell phone on top of the desk. Otherwise, I should see no cell phones during the course of the class. Students using cell phones during class without permission may be asked to leave and will be counted absent. Other forms of technology are treated as above.

### **Changes to the syllabus**

Minor changes may be made to the syllabus. If changes are made, announcements will be made in class, will be emailed out, and will be posted on ecollege.

**Finally, I cannot stress enough the importance of contacting me immediately if you find that you are having trouble with the course material. Come to my office hours, use my email, and ask me questions before, during, and after class. If we catch a problem early, it can be cured. I can do nothing for you when approached after the semester has been completed.**

This is a <b>VERY</b> tentative schedule of this course and the text book readings.				
WEEK	DATES	TOPIC	Chapters	Assignments
1	M 6/8	The beginnings	1 & 2	
2	W 6/10	Infancy	3 & 4	
3	M 6/15	Early Childhood	5 & 6	Exam 1
4	W 6/17	Middle and Late Childhood	7 & 8	
5	M 6/22	Adolescence	9 & 10	Exam 2
6	W 6/24	Early Adulthood	11 & 12	Infant Toy paper
7	M 6/29	Middle Adulthood	13 & 14	Exam 3
8	W 7/1	Late Adulthood	15 & 16	
9	M 7/6	Death, Dying & Grieving	17	Exam 4
10	W 7/8	Final		