Professor
Dr. Maria Carlson
Maria.Carlson@tamuc.edu
Office: Henderson 220
Office Hours:
Wednesday & Friday 11:00am – 1:30pm
And by appointment.

Textbook
ISBN: 978-0-07-786182-7

Questions about Grades
Any questions about a grade for a particular assignment or exam should be brought to the professor’s attention within one week of the grades for that assignment or exam being posted.

Grades
Final course grades are based on:
• Five exams (50% of your overall grade)
• 15 quizzes (15% of your overall grade)
• Class Discussion (20% of your overall grade)
• Group Presentations (15% of your overall grade)
❖Grades will be calculated as follows:
   A: 89.5 - 100%
   B: 79.5 – 89.4%
   C: 69.5 – 79.4%
   D: 59.5 – 69.4%
   F: below 59.5%

There will be NO rounding in this course!

Course Overview
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.

Requirements
There is a text for the course, listed in the margin. There is a list of the tentative schedule of topics below. The course is built around the textbook and in-class lectures.

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

Class Discussion
Approximately once a week, groups of 3-4 students will discuss one of the topics covered for the week. The discussion topic will relate the course material back to you and your life, and hopefully get you thinking about how the material covered in the course is personally relevant. Students who do not attend class on discussion days will earn 0 points for that day’s discussion. There will be no make-up class discussions except as mandated by University policy for University-excused
absences, religious holidays and major illnesses.

QUIZZES
It is helpful for you to read the assigned chapters in the textbook before class. To “encourage” that behavior, you will be required to complete weekly POP quizzes. These will be given at the start of class once a week and will cover the readings assigned for that week. Quizzes will be given on either Tuesday or Thursday but a quiz will be given each week of class for a total of 15 quizzes. There will be no make-up quizzes except as mandated by University policy for University-excused absences, religious holidays and major illnesses.

GROUP PRESENTATIONS
Groups of 3-4 students will create a PowerPoint presentation on a topic regarding cultural issues in lifespan development. Topics are posted in eCollege to select from. Each group will present on a unique topic (i.e., no duplication of topics between groups). Groups will present their work during an in-class presentation. Additional information about this assignment can be found on the eCollege website. There will be no make-up presentations except as mandated by University policy for University-excused absences, religious holidays and major illnesses. Students should contact the professor prior to the scheduled presentation if possible, or within 24 hours of missing the presentation due to accident or illness, to schedule a makeup presentation.

EXAMS
There will be five unit exams, each covering approximately one-fifth of the course material. The exams will not be comprehensive and will be evenly weighted. Exams will consist of multiple-choice questions. The questions will require not only recognition of concepts and correct answers, but will be designed to test comprehension and application of concepts as well. Material for the exams will be drawn from the text, the lectures, and the classroom experiences. There will be no make-up exams except as mandated by University policy for University-excused absences, religious holidays and major illnesses. Students should contact the professor prior to the scheduled exam if possible, or within 24 hours of missing the exam due to accident or illness, to schedule a makeup exam.

Note: Unless specifically approved by me prior to the exam, use of electronic devices (e.g., cell phones, PDAs, iPods, and the like) during the exam is strictly prohibited and will result in your exam being taken from you immediately.
RESEARCH PARTICIPATION

As part of your course requirement, you will need to complete a total of 6 credit hours of research participation. **HOWEVER,** if you do not have any unexcused no-shows (i.e. you do not show up for a study) you will be required to complete only 4 credit hours. Students who have completed their required credit hours will be allowed to complete additional credit hours for extra credit (not to exceed 10 total credit hours). You are **only allowed to complete 50% of your research credits via online studies,** the remaining credits need to be completed via laboratory studies.

**Failure to complete the required number of credits will result in the reduction of your final grade by one letter grade. That is, if you have an “A” and do not complete the required credits, your final grade will be a “B.”**

You will be able to sign up for various studies through the SONA system. Instructions on how to do this will be provided in a separate handout. Studies are worth different amounts of credit depending upon how long it takes to complete the study. You may sign up for any combination of studies you wish as long as you complete the required number of credits.

A pre-screening questionnaire is required before participating in many of the studies. You may earn .5 credits by completing the pre-screening within the first two weeks of the semester.

**The alternative** to the research experiment participation will be to complete an original 2-page article summary for each credit hour. Instructions for completing the alternative research assignment can be found in the do sharing on eCollege. If you choose to do the research alternative instead of the research experiments the **article summaries will be due by 11:59pm Friday, December 11th, 2015** and should be turned in to the dropbox in eCollege. More information about research participation and the alternative article summaries can be found on the eCollege website.

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. **Do NOT text message or instant message in class.** Although you may think that you
are just multitasking, this is discourteous to your instructor and is distracting to classmates. If you bring a laptop to class, you must limit it to class-relevant use (e.g., typing notes). \textit{I will ask you to leave the classroom if you are engaging in off-task behaviors.} 

\textbf{STUDENT CONDUCT}  
A\&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained. 

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Student’s Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct). 

\textbf{ACADEMIC INTEGRITY}  
By accepting this syllabus, the student pledges to uphold the principles of Academic Integrity expressed by the Texas A\&M University - Commerce community and the Psychology, Counseling, and Special Education Department. The student agrees to observe these principles and to defend them against abuse by others. 

- Students in this course are expected to exhibit academic integrity at all times. Be aware that plagiarism is presenting someone else’s work as your own. Whether the act is deliberate or unintentional is irrelevant. You must take great care to give credit to an author when you borrow either exact words or ideas. Generally, if you use 4 or more words in a row you should use quotation marks and a proper citation. The instructor reserves the right to submit your work to Turnitin®️, SafeAssign®, or similar plagiarism detection services, for an integrity assessment as needed. 

- Copyright rules also apply. Use of graphics or data must also be cited, giving credit to the sources. This
material includes but is not limited to journal articles, books, popular press articles, e-mail (don’t cite or forward someone else’s email without permission), newsgroup material, and information from websites. Even if you give credit, you must get permission from the original source to use any data, graphic, or material that you did not create.

- Any attempt to circumvent the integrity of the demands of class assignments is an unethical manner constitutes cheating. This can mean looking on another student’s exam or assignment, copying another student’s work, consulting notes or books during an exam unless specifically permitted by the instructor, turning assignments in during another section of the course, stealing and exam and circulating it among other students; all constitute forms of academic dishonesty that amount to cheating. Any offense wholly or partially touching the above definition constitutes cheating for the purposes of this class.
- Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Any act of academic dishonesty may result in earning a “0” in the course. All acts of dishonesty will be reported to the applicable program coordinator and department chair.

EMAIL POLICY
In addition to traditional face-to-face office hours, the instructor is available virtually by email during posted office hours. If you would like to schedule an appointment, the best way is to email. We can then set up a time to chat when it is convenient for you. During posted office hours, the instructor will return emails upon receipt. Outside of these times, please allow 24 hours to receive a response on weekdays. If you email me and do not receive an email response within, 48 hours, most likely, your email was not received.

EMAIL GUIDELINES
In an attempt to provide a framework for professional communication, emails must contain the following:
- Subject Line: Course (e.g. PSY 322); additional information if desired (e.g. Hypothesis testing)
• Address the Reader: Open with Dr. Carlson
• Adhere to writing mechanics rules
• If asking for assistance with an issue, please list at least 3 things you have done to try and remediate the issue prior to contacting me (these should probably include looking at the syllabus/ course rubrics/ eCollege, contacting a colleague, and checking your text, etc.)
• Close with your name
• Please send emails from your University accounts. The instructor will not discuss grades over email. If you would like to discuss your grade, please make an appointment during office hours.

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,
### Lifespan Psychology

**PSY 322**  
**Fall 2015**  
**Dr. Maria Carlson**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td><strong>TUESDAY</strong></td>
<td><strong>THURSDAY</strong></td>
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<td>Chapter 5</td>
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<td><strong>Exam 2</strong></td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>Chapter 8</td>
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*No Final Exam!*

**This syllabus and course description is provided as a general guideline to assist in your planning. Various circumstances may result in changes to the syllabus or course schedule, and such changes are at the instructor's discretion. A reasonable attempt will be made to communicate such changes to students in advance; however, it is the student's responsibility to keep up with such changes.**