

South Plains College
Common Course Syllabus: PSYC 2314 -Lifespan Growth and Development
Summer I 2025

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 at the following web address:

<http://dept.clcillinois.edu/psy/LifespanDevelopment.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 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:

Students must engage in class each week to be successful in a course. "Engagement" includes learning activities such as attending class in the online environment, 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 the instructor's Course Information Sheet for additions to the attendance policy.

See the instructor's Course Information Sheet for additions to the attendance policy.

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://southplainscollege.edu).

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 2025**

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.

LIVE ZOOM Office Hours: By appointment, either in person or by Zoom. Student needs to email instructor to schedule a meeting.

Instructor Office Phone: 806-716-2468 (This number calls directly to my office in Levelland however it is better to contact me by my 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 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.*

*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 try 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.*

I urge you to stay caught up on readings, assignments, and exams, etc. so you do not fall behind.

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: Assignments submitted after the established deadline are not generally accepted, however, if the student provides appropriate documentation and receives prior approval, an extension may be granted. 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. Students are expected to make up any missed assignments as soon as possible because permission to do so at the end of the semester may not be permitted.

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 **415** 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.

	Points to be completed	Total Points Possible	Points earned by you this semester 😊
Syllabus Quiz	5 points	5	
Introductory Form	5 points	5	
Personal Photo (professional headshot)	5 points	5	
Activity #1	10 points	10	
Activity #2	10 points	10	
Activity #3	10 points	10	
Activity #4	10 points	10	
Activity #5	10 points	10	
Writing Assignment	100 points	100	
Exam 1	50 points	50	
Exam 2	50 points	50	
Exam 3	50 points	50	
Reading Quiz 1	10 points	10	
Reading Quiz 2	10 points	10	
Reading Quiz 3	10 points	10	
Reading Quiz 4	10 points	10	
Reading Quiz 5	10 points	10	
Reading Quiz 6	10 points	10	
Reading Quiz 7	10 points	10	
Reading Quiz 8	10 points	10	
Reading Quiz 9	10 points	10	
Reading Quiz 10	10 points	10	
Total	22 total	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 = 288 and below

Syllabus Quiz, Introductory Form, and Personal Photo (5 pts ea. = 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 the **Introductory Form** and upload a current **Personal Photo** of yourself in the **Week 1 Learning Module** in Blackboard. Each of these tasks are due before **midnight this Sunday, June 8**.

Activities (50 points): There will be 5 Activities (Discussions, Reflections, 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 one Writing Assignment about two especially influential life events or influences, as explained in content from Chapter 1. The assignment should be double-spaced with 12-point font and use 1-inch margins. The content of the assignment should be an in-depth explanation (in one's own words) of the assigned topic. More details about this assignment will be posted in Blackboard. Your composition should follow the guidelines of standard written English. See Course Schedule for all specific deadlines.

Exams (3 @ 50 pts = 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 online exams. A 70-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 course notes to complete the exams.

Special Requirements: If you miss an exam, you may be permitted an extension on the due date however points may be deducted for late submission.

Course Calendar: PSYC-2314-154 and PSYC-2314-451 (ONLINE)

Lifespan Growth & Development

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

WEEKS	TASKS TO COMPLETE:	DUE DATES:
Wk 1 June 2-8	Introduction to Course: Complete Syllabus Quiz Upload Introductory Form Upload Personal Photo Read Chapter 1 Intro. to Lifespan Development Complete Reading Quiz 1 View Life's Greatest Miracle (video) Read Chapter 2 Heredity, Prenatal Development, and Birth Complete Reading Quiz 2 Complete Activity 1	All tasks this week are due by midnight Sunday, Jun 8.
Wk 2 June 9-15	Read Chapter 3 Infancy and Toddlerhood Complete Reading Quiz 3 Read Chapter 4 Early Childhood Read information/instructions about upcoming Writing Assignment Complete Reading Quiz 4 Complete Activity 2 Complete Exam 1	All tasks this week are due by midnight Sunday, Jun 15.
Wk 3 June 16 – 22	Read Chapter 5 Middle and Late Childhood Complete Reading Quiz 5 Read Chapter 6 Adolescence Complete Reading Quiz 6 Complete Activity 3 Submit Writing Assignment	All tasks this week are due by midnight Sunday, Jun 22.
Wk 4 June 23– 29	Read Chapter 7 Emerging and Early Adulthood Complete Reading Quiz 7 View: Happy (video) Complete Exam 2 Read Chapter 8 Middle Adulthood Complete Reading Quiz 8 Complete Activity 4	All tasks this week are due by midnight Sunday, Jul 29.
Wk 5 June 30 – July 3	Read Chapter 9 Late Adulthood Complete Reading Quiz 9 Read Chapter 10 "Death and Dying" Complete Reading Quiz 10 Complete Activity 5 Complete Exam 3	All tasks this week are due by midnight Thursday, July 3.

Note: You are strongly encouraged to develop a system for keeping up with these deadlines. This might include printing out this document and hanging it in your home. Other options include writing deadlines in your own planner or calendar, adding reminders in your phone or on other devices, or adding reminders/deadlines to the Blackboard calendar on your own. To prepare for each week, it is in your best interest to read the assigned chapters on your own. Take detailed notes on these chapters and use any other materials provided. Even on days when nothing is due, you should be reading, studying, viewing supplemental materials, reviewing, or rereading!