PSYC 2314.003 - Lifespan Developmental Psychology  
Spring 2012

Instructor: Edith Douglas, M.A.  
Class Time: M 7:00-9:30pm  
Email: edith.douglas@tamucc.edu  
Office: BH 319  
Office Hours: TBA

Required Text: Essentials of Lifespan Development (2nd edition) by John Santrock,  
published by McGraw Hill

Course Description

This course will introduce you to major theories and topics in the field of developmental psychology. We will emphasize the ways in which various socialization agents (e.g., parents, teachers, siblings, etc.), in connection with biological factors, contribute to successful development as we focus on normative physical, cognitive, social and emotional development in cultural context throughout the lifespan. As part of this course, you will have multiple opportunities to read, discuss, apply, analyze, synthesize and critically evaluate work in the field of developmental psychology.

Learning Outcomes: By the end of the course, the student should be able to:

1) Accurately describe the main points of the developmental theories we cover (including their similarities and differences) with reference to the different domains (physical, cognitive, social/emotional) of development covered in the textbook;

2) Use the information from your text as background knowledge and information to apply to real-world situations, critically evaluating claims that you might encounter out in the “real world” (outside of the classroom) about how people develop.

Assignments/Grades (Total possible points = 400)

Tests. Four tests worth 50 points each will be given throughout the semester. The tests will consist of multiple choice questions and short answer/essay questions. There will be no make-up exams, except in emergency situations at the discretion of the instructor. Total possible points = 200 (50%)

Quizzes/In-class Assignments. Throughout the semester, 6 quizzes/in-class assignments will be given during class, 5 of which will count towards the final grade (lowest score will be dropped). Each quiz/in-class assignment will be worth 20 points. They will not be announced prior to class and are designed to constitute the attendance and participation portion of your grade, as well as make sure that you are reading and understanding the assigned material prior to class. Total possible points = 100 (25%)
**Final Course Paper.** There will be one final 2-3 page paper worth 100 points (25%). The paper is designed to help students master course material at a higher level of mastery. You will have the opportunity to analyze, evaluate, and synthesize the concepts learned in class. Detailed instructions will be handed out well in advance of the due date of this paper. This assignment is due *on the due date*! No late papers will be accepted without deduction of points. Emergency situations which require you to miss the deadline must be discussed with me in advance or as soon as they arise. The paper should be typed, double-spaced, 12 point font.

**Grading Scale:**

- A (90%) = 360 – 400 points
- B (80%) = 320 – 359 points
- C (70%) = 280 – 319 points
- D (60%) = 240 – 279 points
- F (below 60%) = fewer than 240 points

**Classroom Policies**

**Classroom Etiquette.** Please turn off your cell phones (or iPods, etc.), or turn them to silent, before class begins, out of respect for your peers and me. Do not engage in any other behaviors, such as web surfing or engaging in side conversations that may distract other students. If I observe this behavior repeatedly, you will be asked to leave, which may result in loss of participation points. If you must take a phone call or text during class time, please keep them on vibrate and leave class quietly. Laptops are permitted but are to be used for class purposes only. Please respect your classmates and the extent to which all of us may become distracted by these devices.

**Late Work.** There will be no make-up or late work permitted for quizzes/in-class assignments. If you are in class, you will receive appropriate credit; if you are not, you won’t. In addition, there will be no make-up exams. Please see me in person for extreme circumstances.

**Attendance.** Attendance is expected. If you miss a class, you will still be responsible for any notes, handouts, announcements, etc. that may have taken place during the missed class. The quizzes/in-class assignments will count toward participation/attendance credit. These will be given throughout the semester on random days. If you are here and have read prior to class, you should do fine; if you miss class, you will not receive credit for that quiz/assignment. If you are late to class or leave early and miss a quiz/in-class assignment, you will not be able to make it up.

**Contacting me.** Email is the best way to get in touch with me. I encourage you to meet with me during my office hours if you have any questions, difficulties, comments, or just want some feedback. If you need to meet with me outside of office hours, please contact me in advance and I will be happy to schedule another time to meet with you.
**Blackboard.** We will use Blackboard for posting important class documents including the syllabus, instructions for writing assignments, announcements, etc.

**Students with Disabilities**

The Americans with Disabilities ACT (ADA) requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodations of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation please contact the Disability Services Office at (361) 825-5816 or visit the office in Driftwood 101. The recording of lectures or other class activities is prohibited without permission from the instructor, although exceptions will always be made for students with disabilities. Please see me if you believe you need to record audio in class.

**Academic Advising**

If you are majoring, or planning to major, in a field taught in the College of Liberal Arts and if you have not yet obtained a signed degree plan, you should see your Academic Advisor immediately. Degree plans are important and useful to successful progress toward graduation. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

**Grade Appeal Process**

As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at [http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.htm](http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.htm). For assistance or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

**Academic Integrity**

Academic dishonesty, which includes plagiarism, handing in materials used in other courses, the use of old exams from previous classes, or the use of any work that is not the student’s will be dealt with according to university policy (see the current University Catalog and Student Handbook). If you have *any question whatsoever* if something is considered plagiarism, please see me BEFORE you turn it in.
**COURSE SCHEDULE:** This is a tentative schedule. Dates may change at the discretion of the Instructor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Assignments*</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 23</td>
<td>Course Introduction</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>January 30</td>
<td>Biological Beginnings/Infancy</td>
<td>Chapter 2-3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>February 6</td>
<td>Infancy</td>
<td>Chapter 3-4</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>February 13</strong></td>
<td><strong>Exam 1</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Chapters 1-4</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 20</td>
<td>Early Childhood</td>
<td>Chapter 5-6</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>February 27</td>
<td>Middle/Late Childhood</td>
<td>Chapter 7-8</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>March 5</strong></td>
<td><strong>Exam 2</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Chapters 5-8</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 12</td>
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<td><strong>No Class - Spring Break</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>March 19</td>
<td>Adolescence</td>
<td>Chapter 9-10</td>
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<td>March 26</td>
<td>Early Adulthood</td>
<td>Chapter 11-12</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>April 2</td>
<td>Middle Adulthood</td>
<td>Chapter 13-14</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>April 9</strong></td>
<td><strong>Exam 3</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Chapters 9-12</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>April 16</td>
<td>Late Adulthood</td>
<td>Chapter 15-16</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>April 23</strong></td>
<td><strong>Death, Dying, and Grieving</strong></td>
<td>Chapter 17</td>
<td><strong>Final Paper Due</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>April 30</strong></td>
<td><strong>Exam 4</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Chapters 13-17</strong></td>
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*Reading Assignments must be read prior to the dates listed on the course schedule. For example, Chapter 1 should be read prior to class on January 23.*