Psychology 2314.003 – Lifespan Developmental Psychology  
Spring, 2013

Class meetings:  
Monday 7:00 – 9:30, TBD

Instructor: Amanda Foy, MA, LPC, LSSP  
Office: BH 318  
Office Hours: By appointment  
Email: Amanda.Foy@tamucc.edu

Required Text: HDEV (2nd ed.) by Spencer A. Rathus, Wadsworth Cengage Learning

Description and Goals of the Course

This course will highlight the ways in which socialization assets such as parents, teachers, siblings and peers in connection with biological factors contribute to successful lifespan development. Additionally, we will investigate normative physical, cognitive, social and emotional development as it applies to the cultural context of lifespan development. 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.

A combination of readings, lectures, class discussions, and written work will be used throughout the course. This course covers a lot of material and it is imperative not only that you read the material carefully but with a critical eye as well. My goal is to give you an understanding of lifespan development and how it may apply to you, people you know or perhaps if you choose a career in psychology, your future patients. I expect you to take an active, analytic, critical and self-critical approach to the material, theories and methods we cover as well as your own beliefs and ideas regarding the subject.

Student Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, you shall be required to:

a. 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 lifespan development covered in the textbook;

b. Use the information from your text as background knowledge and information to apply to real-world situations, critically evaluating claims of other persons and theories regarding lifespan development outside of what you learned in the course
Assignments and Grades

You are required to read assigned chapters from the text before the class during which we will discuss them. Your textbook also has online resources available and I encourage you to utilize this interactive program. This site from the publisher has review materials such as quizzes, flashcards, games, interactive quizzes, and additional activities to help supplement the text in preparation for class discussions, activities, tests and assignments. While these supplemental activities will not be graded, they will help you to understand material and increase your overall score in the class.

You may also be assigned additional readings throughout the semester. Instructions on accessing assigned readings will be posted on Blackboard. These supplemental readings are designed to broaden your understanding of the subject material.

Tests

Tests will be taken online and cover the textbook chapters and class discussions from the preceding section and will be available take outside of class at a specified time (see class schedule). Typically, tests will be available for 48 hours, to allow for some flexibility. More information about accessing online tests will be provided in class.

The tests will help us (student and instructor) evaluate your basic mastery of the material from the text, assess your understanding of the material presented, as well as your ability to apply the material to hypothetical scenarios.

There will be 5 online tests and one final examination which will count towards the final grade. You are allowed to drop one exam, which will allow for unseen contingencies or a low test score. Each test is worth 50 points. There will be no make-up tests. If are unable to complete tests online, please contact the instructor in advance to arrange alternate arrangements.

In-Class Activities, Assignments, and Homework

All assignments (hard copies only, no email please) are due at the start of class on the due date. Late assignments will be assessed a deduction of one letter grade for each day after the due date. (One day late means the highest grade the work can earn is a “B” and so on). Emergency situations which require you to miss a deadline must be discussed with me in advance.

In-class work will be distributed randomly throughout the semester. In class work will be graded on accuracy, completeness, and how well it was used to prepare for and contribute to class discussions.

Attendance

Students are expected to arrive on time and attend and participate in all classes. If you miss a class, please arrange to get announcements, handouts, class notes, etc. from a fellow student. Also check Blackboard for new postings.
Participation and classroom assignments will be *randomly* assigned. If you are absent, you will miss opportunity to earn points toward your overall grade. You are expected to attend class on time, as arriving late is disruptive and disrespectful. Any student arriving more than 15 minutes late will be counted as absent for that class. Please discuss any emergencies or other mitigating circumstances with me.

In addition to being present, you are required to actively participate in all aspects of the class. This means that not only you expected to contribute to class discussions and group activities, but that your comments, questions and contributions should indicate that you have read the assigned material and are prepared for contribute to class meetings.

**Classroom Policy**

a. We are all adults and it is expected that we will treat other students, teaching assistants/graders, and the instructor with respect. During discussions, feel free to express your disagreement with ideas but refrain from criticizing or belittling anyone (including researchers, authors, etc.) with whom you disagree.

b. The following will not be permitted during class
   1. Surfing the web
   2. Texting
   3. Talking on your phone (put it on vibrate and if you need to take a call, quietly leave the classroom and take the call outside)
   4. Disruptive side conversations or activities that have nothing to do with the class

c. If there is a situation or issue that you know about ahead of time, please let me know. Please do not schedule other activities such as work or meetings during class time. You will not be excused from in-class work missed when you schedule other activities such as these during class meeting times.

d. You may eat or drink in class as long as it does not interfere with the class, trash is thrown out and the classroom kept clean.

**Using Resources Outside of Class**

There are a number of resources available to you outside of class and I strongly encourage you to contact me if you have any questions, difficulties, comments, or simply want some feedback. *I want you to succeed in this class.*

I encourage you to set up study groups, or work with a partner whenever appropriate. Discussing the textbook material together and talking about what we are doing in class can be a great way to test your ability to express the ideas you are developing.

You are also strongly encouraged to make use of the writing center. The personnel in the center are there to help you with all kinds of different writing forms, and are great resources for helping with organization and style and they are terrific at helping you polish your thinking through writing. Check the schedule online [http://critical.tamucc.edu/wiki/WC/Home](http://critical.tamucc.edu/wiki/WC/Home) or email for an appointment at [Writing-Center@tamucc.edu](mailto:Writing-Center@tamucc.edu).
**Blackboard**

We will use Blackboard for posting important class documents including online tests, supplemental readings, specific instructions for the various writing assignments, announcements, etc. Be sure to check your email regularly to ensure that you do not miss any important announcements.

**Contacting Me**

Email is the best way to get in touch with me. While I do not have posted office hours, I do check and respond to my email promptly. If you need to meet with me outside of class, please contact me and I will be happy to schedule a time to meet with you.

**Academic Honesty Policy**

As is true of all institutions of higher learning and intellectual communities in general, academic integrity is very highly valued at TAMUCC. I take this issue very seriously such that cheating on exams, plagiarism, and unauthorized collaboration on materials that are turned in will be strongly sanctioned. Make sure you are familiar with all the information on TAMUCC’s Academic Honesty Policy at [http://www.tamucc.edu/catalog/archives/Catalog03/Undergraduate/generali/general.html](http://www.tamucc.edu/catalog/archives/Catalog03/Undergraduate/generali/general.html) and if you have any questions or are unclear about anything, by all means please talk with me or contact someone at the Tutoring and Learning center [http://falcon.tamucc.edu/~tlcweb/si.htm](http://falcon.tamucc.edu/~tlcweb/si.htm) before engaging in any questionable behavior.

**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. TAMU-CC is committed to ensuring full participation of all students in its programs, and so am I. 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. In addition, make sure to speak with me so that I can help accommodate your particular needs.

**Academic Advising**

The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. 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.
# Grading Rubric

Your overall grade will be calculated based on the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online Test 1</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>drop lowest score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Test 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Test 3</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Test 4</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Test 5</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam (Test 6)</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>62.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation/Paper Outline</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation/Paper</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-class work (participation)</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>400</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

90-100% (360 - 400 points) - A indicates work of distinction, of consistent and exceptionally high quality

80-89% (320 - 359 points) - B indicates good work, maybe not consistent or of distinction

70-79% (280 – 319 points) - C indicates average work

60-69% (240 – 279 points) - D indicates marginal work

Below 60% (below 239 points) - F indicates unacceptable work

You can easily calculate your grade at any point in the semester by adding the number of points you have earned and dividing it by the number of points possible up until that point. There is a total of 400 points available for the course.
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 ASSIGNMENT</th>
<th>HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 28th</td>
<td>Welcome and Introduction to the course Review Syllabus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 4th</td>
<td>History, Theory, and Methods</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 11th</td>
<td>History, Theory &amp; Methods (Cont)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Online test 1 - Available 02/12 – 02/13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 18th</td>
<td>Heredity and Prenatal Development</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
<td>Presentation/Paper Proposal Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 25th</td>
<td>Birth and the Newborn Baby</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 4th</td>
<td>Infancy</td>
<td>Chapters 4 – 6</td>
<td>Online test 2 - Available 03/05 – 03/06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 11th</td>
<td>No Class – SPRING BREAK</td>
<td></td>
<td>Presentation/Paper Outline Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 18th</td>
<td>Early &amp; Middle Childhood</td>
<td>Chapters 7 – 10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 25th</td>
<td>Early &amp; Middle Childhood (Cont)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Online test 3 - Available 04/02 – 04/03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 1st</td>
<td>Special Topic: Childhood Development and School Success</td>
<td></td>
<td>Presentations - Prenatal to Early/Middle Childhood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 8th</td>
<td>Adolescence</td>
<td>Chapters 11 – 12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 15th</td>
<td>Middle &amp; Early Adulthood</td>
<td>Chapters 13 – 16</td>
<td>Online test 4 - Available 04/16 – 04/17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.