Lifespan Developmental Psychology
Psychology 2314.002
Spring 2020

Professor: Lauren Denver-Potter, PhD   Email: lauren.denver-potter@tamucc.edu
Office: Bay Hall 315   Class Times: MWF 11-11:50 am   Class Location: BH104
Office Hours: Mondays/Wednesdays 9-10:30am; Tuesdays and Thursdays 8-9am; or by appointment
Phone: 361-825-2394

Description and Goals of the Course
This course will introduce students to major theories and topics in the field of developmental psychology. The theories of attachment and successful development throughout the lifespan will be emphasized, in terms of normative physical, cognitive, social and emotional development.

A combination of readings, virtual Powerpoint slides and slideshow lectures, course room discussions, written work, and a presentation project will be used throughout the course. This course covers a large amount of material and it is imperative you read the material thoroughly, while utilizing your skills of critical thinking. The course goal is to give students an understanding of lifespan development within the field of psychology and how it may apply to them and those around them. This class will also serve as an important foundation, should students decide to follow a career within the field of psychology, education, medicine, or other behavioral sciences.

Student Learning Objectives
1) Accurately describe the main points of the developmental theories in psychology and how they apply to development throughout the lifespan.
2) Use the information from your text as a guide and background knowledge to apply to real-world situations.
3) Appropriately utilize research resources and APA format to describe topics within developmental psychology.

Course Requirements
ISBN 9781260693478 (loose-leaf copy with Connect access card)
OR
ISBN 9781260529814 (Connect access card with ebook only)

McGraw Hill Connect (access included with text) is an online student class support system. As such, it is designed to provide you with supplemental lessons, videos, and exercises that are designed to help you master the material. More importantly, McGraw Hill Connect allows the opportunity to do self-assessments as you prepare for exams. The Connect Access is REQUIRED for this section of PSYC2314, as the assigned SmartBook exercises will be found in Connect.

Laptop or tablet device
For you to take notes on these devices in class if you choose; required for you to take tests that will be proctored in the classroom on the exam dates
Blackboard
This course is will use the Blackboard platform. You are expected to have reliable and dedicated internet access which enables you to view electronic resources, participate in discussions, and complete online exams. Blackboard will also be used for posting important class documents including information about tests, supplemental readings, announcements, homework, and project assignments. It is your responsibility to check Blackboard regularly to ensure completion of all required coursework. If you do not know your login information for Blackboard, please contact the IT Help Desk, (361) 825-2692. If there are issues within your Blackboard course, please contact me first, as typically the instructor is the only one who can make changes/fix issues within a course. If you are having technical difficulties, please contact the IT Help Desk or your ISP.

Course Evaluation

Readings
You are required to read assigned chapters from the text before engaging in weekly discussions. Your textbook also has online resources available and I encourage you to utilize this interactive program. Resources include quizzes, self-assessments, SmartBook, and other activities to help you maximize learning. While these supplemental activities will not be graded, they will help you to understand material and increase your overall mastery 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.

Exams (40% of your grade)
You will take 4 exams during the semester. The exams will cover material that is presented in the lectures or covered in the assigned readings and will consist of multiple choice questions. These exams will be given online on the scheduled exam days (See Weekly Syllabus). These exams must be proctored, which may result in an additional cost. Options for this will be provided and discussed in class. The average of the four exams will make up 40% of your grade. The exams will cover material that is presented in class lectures and covered through assigned readings. Exams will be multiple choice and may include some short answer or fill-in-the blank items.

In addition to the four regular exams, there will also be an optional final comprehensive exam (FCE) on the assigned final exam date. Please note that this exam will be given on the finals date assigned to this class. You may choose to take the FCE to replace your lowest exam performance. It cannot hurt you to take the FCE, if you do worse on the FCE than your lowest exam score, your grades will remain as if you had not taken the FCE. If you miss a regular exam for any reason, you must take the FCE to replace the missed exam grade; there will be no make-up exams. You are allowed to drop one exam, which will allow for unforeseen contingencies or a low test score. If you are satisfied with your first four exam scores, you are not required to take the final. If you missed any of the first four tests, or did not score as well as you would like, then you should plan to take the final exam.

There will be no make-up exams.
Chapter SmartBook Reading Assignments/Quizzes (20% of your grade)

To ensure you are keeping up with lectures and/or readings in class, chapter reading and lecture SmartBook assessments will be due each week. Many weeks will have more than one SmartBook, and there will be one for each chapter we cover. All of these SmartBooks will earn a percentage (on a 100 point scale) and all chapters will be averaged together for a total point maximum value of 100. These are completed in McGraw-Hill Connect (Link available in Blackboard Classroom). SmartBook assessments will close at their respective due dates/times. **There will be no make-up SmartBooks.**

Random Reflective Writing Exercises (20% of your grade)

You will have five (5) random reflective writing exercises (RRWE) you will complete in class on varying topics within class. These will be given randomly throughout the semester – therefore, if you miss class, you will NOT be able to complete the RRWE if it occurred during the class you missed. Each RRWE is worth 20 points, for a cumulative grade to total 100 at the end of the semester. **The goal of these is to see your level of understanding of the concept, if you can think critically about the topic, and see if you are attending class regularly.** The only exception to anyone who misses a RRWE is a doctor’s note, a university sponsored event (proof is required, and this includes athletics), or a notification from the staff in Student Assistance (Student Engagement and Success in the University Center) regarding an unforeseen serious circumstance.

I will randomly pull out some RRWE’s and will read them out loud to the class (keeping the authors anonymous) during the following class after the most recent writing exercise. **There will be no late RRWE’s accepted.**

Research Essay (20% of final grade)

You are required to write a 7-page (not including cover page or reference page), double-spaced, 12-point, Times New Roman-font, essay on a topic of your own personal interest within developmental psychology. This paper MUST utilize proper APA format, contain a cover-page, and a reference page. It does not need an abstract or table of contents. You must utilize at a minimum 5 references to base the information on within your paper. You will turn this paper in within Blackboard utilizing either MSWord or a pdf file.

This paper will be gradually developed throughout the semester to ensure timely and quality work, and each section will earn points toward the total grade. The introduction of the paper will be due first, followed by the first two sub-topics of the paper, followed by any remaining sub-topics of the paper, then finishing up with the conclusion and references page. Each section should be written as the rough draft for the final draft due at semester’s end. Each portion of the paper will have different due dates (see schedule) and the final essay will be due toward the end of the semester which would have incorporated any critiques I had for you in the portions of the paper turned in throughout the semester. See the Blackboard section titled “Research Essay” for more information on the paper itself. **Late work will not be accepted.**

Attendance

This is a face-to-face section, and you will miss important information when you miss class. Additionally, SmartBook and regular exams based on chapter lectures and readings will be conducted throughout the semester and missing class will be detrimental to your performance on
those class requirements. As required by the Financial Aid and Registrar’s offices, if you stop attending classes, your name will be reported as a “stopped attending” student, which could cause ramifications to your student record and financial aid funds. Attendance will be tracked by when you log-in to Blackboard, the random reflective writing exercises, and the assignments, quizzes, and exams you turn in. Additionally, I will randomly conduct attendance for passing along these records to the Registrar’s office. Once your activity in Blackboard has stopped, the last date of log-in will be noted and your name will be forwarded to required entities.

Blackboard and McGraw-Hill Connect are required resources for participating in course lessons and Blackboard/random attendance/RRWE are utilized to track your attendance. If you have an emergency, you may contact me to discuss how to make sure you stay on top of class topics. Homework and in-class activities will be assigned throughout the semester. Credit for in-class work will be graded on accuracy, completeness, and how well it was used to prepare for and contribute to class discussions. Incomplete work or missing part of the class may result in loss of credit for that assignment.

Situations which require you to miss a deadline must be discussed with me in advance, and will be decided on a case-by-case basis. You are expected to attend class on time, as arriving late is disruptive and disrespectful. Please discuss any emergencies or other mitigating circumstances with me.

Your overall grade will be calculated based on the following:

See the grading table below for details.

Your overall grade will be calculated based on the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exams (4 exams each at 100 point scale)</th>
<th>5 exams offered, drop lowest score; 4 exams averaged together</th>
<th>TOTAL Possible: 100 points</th>
<th>40%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Lecture/Reading SmartBook</td>
<td>17 chapters offered, each score total possible 100 points for each; average all together</td>
<td>TOTAL Possible: 100 points</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Random Reflective Writing Exercises</td>
<td>Five given during class randomly throughout the semester with each one worth 20 points</td>
<td>20X5 = 100 total points possible (total 20% of final grade)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Essay</td>
<td>Introduction: 10 points&lt;br&gt;First Two Subtopics: 20 points&lt;br&gt;Remaining Subtopics and material in the body: 20 points&lt;br&gt;Conclusion and References page: 10 points&lt;br&gt;Final Essay put together with edits from prior portions: 40 points</td>
<td>TOTAL Possible: 100 points</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FINAL GRADE BASED ALL FIVE CATEGORIES ABOVE | 100% |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>indicates work of distinction, of consistent and exceptionally high quality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89%</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>indicates good work, maybe not consistent or of distinction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79%</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>indicates average work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>indicates marginal work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 60%</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>indicates unacceptable work</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**VERYIMPORTANT – Late Work/Missed Exams**
No late assignments will be accepted. Emergency situations which require you to miss an exam/deadline must be discussed with me in advance or as soon as they arise.

**Classroom Expectations**
✓ Students are expected to actively participate in all class activities. This means that, not only are you expected to contribute to class discussions and activities, but your comments, questions, and contributions should indicate that you have read the assigned material and are prepared to contribute to course room discussions.
✓ We are all adults and it is expected that we will treat other students 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.

**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 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 Center for Academic Student Achievement (CASA). CASA offers a variety of services including tutoring, writing assistance, and mentors. The personnel in the center are a great resource to help you with various aspects of academic and college life. You can access their website for additional information at [http://casa.tamucc.edu/](http://casa.tamucc.edu/).

The Counseling Center can help you to better understand and address factors which may interfere with your academic success. Counseling can help to increase self-awareness, improve self-confidence, strengthen coping skills, and teach you more effective strategies for all aspects of your life. Counselors can also help you to improving study skills, reduce text anxiety, strengthen time management skills, and improve problem solving skills. They are located in the Driftwood Building and you can access their website at [http://counseling.tamucc.edu/](http://counseling.tamucc.edu/)
Correspondence
Email is the best way to get in touch with me. Be sure to include your course & section number in the email subject line. I generally respond to email within 24 hours, except on the weekends. I am always ready and willing to make myself available to help you succeed in this course. While most questions can probably be answered via email, you are also encouraged to drop by my office or make an appointment so we can discuss more complicated concerns. I advise you to identify and remedy any concerns as early as you can during the semester. The more time we have to address concerns, the more likely it is that we will be able to resolve it in a way that allows you to be successful. If you wait until the end of the semester, there is little I can usually do to help at that point.

Dropping a Class
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class.

Grade Appeals
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, 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 Procedure 13.02.99.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught or the Office of the Provost. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at:
http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.c0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf.

Statement of Civility
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.
Disabilities Accommodations
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 believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

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. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism
University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a report to the Associate Dean of Students Angela Walker along with a zero for that assignment.

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism
Definition: In an instructional setting, plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else’s language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source. Plagiarism is a violation academic expectations, but it is sometimes difficult to understand what plagiarism actually is. Often, students commit unintentional plagiarism (not citing sources properly, for example), because they are unaware of the standards that apply. Plagiarism includes:

- Using the work of another as your own,
- Downloading or purchasing ready-made essays off the web and using them as your own,
- Using resource materials without correct documentation,
- Using the organization or language of a source without using quote marks and proper citation.
- Turning in a researched project without citing sources in an appropriate documentation style.

When you are confused about citation of quotes or ideas, please visit the Writing Center or me to get help. Information on MLA documentation rules and APA documentation rules is available at
Purdue University’s OWL: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/, and from our local Writing Center at CASA.

**Statement of Academic Continuity**
In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi, this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>CHAPTER READINGS</th>
<th>MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS &amp; EXAMS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ALL DUE DATES IMPLY A DUE DATE BY 11:59PM ON THAT DATE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>SECTION 1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Welcome and Introduction to the course</td>
<td>Start Chapter 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/22, 1/24</td>
<td>History, Theory, and Methods</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>History, Theory, and Methods</td>
<td>Continue Chapter 1</td>
<td>Lecture/Reading SmartBook Chapter 1 – Due 1/31</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/27, 1/29, 1/31</td>
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<td>Signed Syllabus/Email Contract Due 1/31 by midnight</td>
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<tr>
<td>SECTION 2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Biological Beginnings</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
<td>Lecture/Reading SmartBook Chapter 2 – Due 2/7</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/3, 2/5, 2/7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Infancy</td>
<td>Chapter 3 &amp; 4</td>
<td>Lecture/Reading SmartBook Chapter 3 – Due 2/14</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/10, 2/12, 2/14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Continue Infancy</td>
<td>Continue Chapter 4</td>
<td>Lecture/Reading SmartBook Chapter 4 – Due 2/21</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/17, 2/19, 2/21</td>
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<td>Introduction for Paper – Due 2/21</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Exam 1 – Chapters 1-4</td>
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<td>Exam 1 – 2/21</td>
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<tr>
<td>SECTION 3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Early Childhood</td>
<td>Chapter 5 &amp; 6</td>
<td>Lecture/Reading SmartBooks Chapter 5-6 – Due 2/28</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/24, 2/26, 2/28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Late Childhood</td>
<td>Chapter 7 &amp; 8</td>
<td>Lecture/Reading SmartBooks Chapter 7 – Due 3/6</td>
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<td>3/2, 3/4, 3/6</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Week 8  
3/16, 3/18, 3/20 | Continue Late Childhood  
Exam 2 - Chapters 5-8 | Continue Chapter 8 | Lecture/Reading SmartBook Chapter 8 – Due 3/20  
First two Subtopics for Paper – Due 3/20  
Exam 2 - 3/20 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SECTION 4**  
**ADOLESCENCE/EARLY ADULTHOOD** | | | |
| Week 9  
| Week 10  
3/30, 4/1, 4/3 | Early Adulthood | Chapter 11-12 | Lecture/Reading SmartBook Chapter 11 – Due 4/3 |
| Week 11  
4/6, 4/8, 4/10 | Continue Early Adulthood;  
Exam 3-Chapters 9-12 | Continue Chapter 12  
4/10 Last day to Drop a Class | Lecture/Reading SmartBook Chapter 12 – Due 4/10  
Remaining Subtopics of Paper – Due 4/10  
Exam 3- 4/10 |
| **SECTION 5**  
**MIDDLE/LATE ADULTHOOD/DEATH** | | | |
| Week 12  
4/13, 4/15, 4/17 | Middle Adulthood | Chapters 13-14 | Lecture/Reading SmartBooks Chapter 13-14 – Due 4/17 |
| Week 13  
4/20, 4/22, 4/24 | Late Adulthood; Start Death and Grieving | Chapter 15-17 | Lecture/Reading SmartBooks Chapters 15-16 – Due 4/24  
Conclusion/References of Paper – Due 4/24 |
| Week 14  
4/27, 4/29, 5/1 | Death and Grieving/Review for Final | Chapter 17 | Lecture/Reading SmartBook Chapter 17 – Due 5/1 |
| Week 15  
5/4, 5/6 | Exam 4 – Chapters 13-17 | | Exam 4 – Thursday 5/6  
Final Copy of Paper Put Together – Due 5/6 |
| Date/time pending awaiting university exam schedule | Final Optional Comprehensive Exam | All Chapters | In Classroom |