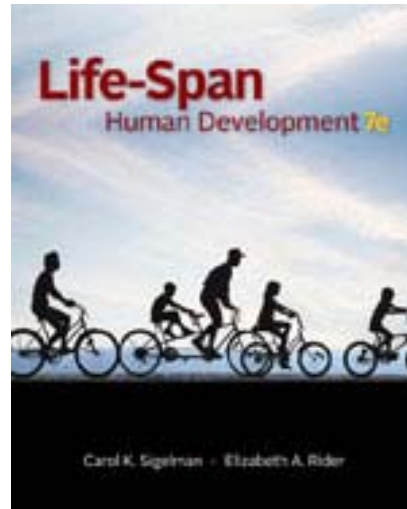


Lifespan Growth and  
Development  
Syllabus  
PSYC 2314  
BH 118 12:00-3:15pm



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Telephone: 956-326-2618

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Office Hours: MTWT: 3:15pm-4:15pm or By APPT.

**Required Textbooks:**

Sigelman, C. K., & Rider, E. A. (2009). Life-Span Human Development, 7th Ed. Thomson Wadsworth, Belmont, CA. ISBN-10: **1111342733**



**Course Description:**

This course will examine development throughout the lifespan and the multiple changes and influences that people go through from conception to death. Development includes different theoretical approaches such as biological, psychological, and cognitive perspectives. The course will also provide an overview as to which approach or school of thought has a more influential impact or whether they interact to form the basis of lifespan changes.

**Learning Outcomes:**

- 1). Write effectively about theories, concepts, and current research pertaining to developmental psychology.
- 2). Understand the scientific method by being able to demonstrate and present what they have learned in a cohesive group presentation.
- 3). Be able to orally communicate ideas and analyze research utilizing presentations and group discussions.
- 4). Effectively engage in current Psychological research in and outside of the course.
- 5). Critically interpret empirical and statistical analysis in psychological research.
- 6). Understand how individuals change as they encounter the different developmental milestones in human development.
- 7). Understand how individuals differ due to cultural differences.

**Methods of Learning:**

- 1). Reading the assigned material in the textbook and supplemental readings if assigned.
- 2). Participation in the course is beneficial due to the similarity between topics; so it would be helpful to ask questions.
- 3). Engage in research articles in the field of developmental psychology because it will serve as clarification on material in the textbook.
- 4). Attend lectures, listen closely, write notes, ask questions and be prepared to be asked questions.

**Extra Credit:**

Students can choose to participate in extra credit by participating in studies being conducted in the university that are related to psychology. Students can also choose to evaluate research articles from the library database by writing a 2-page, double-spaced paper on the article evaluated. You are only allowed to do 5 extra credit assignments and are worth 1 point each for a total of 5 points that will be added to your final grade. This is very important: I will only accept extra credit electronically. On Angel, there will be a dropbox entitled Extra Credit Dropbox and that is where you will submit your extra credit. If it is a proof of participation slip, scan it and upload it with your name written legibly. If it is a document of an article evaluation, then upload the document.

**Course Grade Summary:**

Exams: 45%      Final Exam: 25%      Case Study Project 25%      Attendance 5%

**Course Evaluation:**

**Attendance:** Attendance is very important. A lot of the information mentioned in lecture will be asked in the exam so pay close attention and ask questions if information is not clear.

**Exams:** There will be a total of 3 exams. Exams will consist of lecture material, power point slides, and readings. During exams, keep your eyes on your own paper and do not converse with other students. Those who fail to meet this requirement will be asked to leave and submit their exams as is.

**Final Exam:** Final Exam will be comprehensive. There will be a portion that consists of 2 short essay questions. Be familiar with the theories and approaches in development to help you fulfill the requirements of the essay section.

**Case Study Project:** Students will engage in a group project consisting of a case study and interview of any age span of interest (Infant, childhood, adolescence, young adulthood, middle adulthood, and older adulthood). This will require a 30min-1hour observation, followed by a formal interview. Oral and written reports will be presented in the course on June 5, 2013.

**Course Schedule (May 20-June 7, 2013)**

*Students are responsible for reading the designated material. Please read before class.*

5/20-5/23: Chapters 1-5. Test 1 May 23, 2013.

5/23-5/29: Chapters 6-10: Test 2 May 29, 2013.

5/29-6/4: Chapters 11-17: Test 3 June 4, 2013

6/5: Case Study Presentations

6/7: Final Exam Comprehensive

**Classroom Expectations:** Please turn off all cell phones or put them on silent. Electronic devices can be used for taking notes, but will not be allowed during examination. Please be courteous of other students learning environment. If the classroom is disrupted, you will be asked to leave the classroom.

## **Policies of the College of Arts and Sciences**

### **(Required on all COAS Syllabi)**

#### **Classroom Behavior**

The College of Arts and Sciences encourages classroom discussion and academic debate as an essential intellectual activity. It is essential that students learn to express and defend their beliefs, but it is also essential that they learn to listen and respond respectfully to others whose beliefs they may not share. The College will always tolerate diverse, unorthodox, and unpopular points of view, but it will not tolerate condescending or insulting remarks. When students verbally abuse or ridicule and intimidate others whose views they do not agree with, they subvert the free exchange of ideas that should characterize a university classroom. If their actions are deemed by the professor to be disruptive, they will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, which may include being involuntarily withdrawn from the class.

#### **Plagiarism and Cheating**

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's work as your own. **1)** When you borrow someone else's facts, ideas, or opinions and put them entirely in your own words, you must acknowledge that these thoughts are not your own by immediately citing the source in your paper. Failure to do this is plagiarism. **2)** When you also borrow someone else's words (short phrases, clauses, or sentences), you must enclose the copied words in quotation marks as well as citing the source. Failure to do this is plagiarism. **3)** When you present someone else's paper or exam (stolen, borrowed, or bought) as your own, you have committed a clearly intentional form of intellectual theft and have put your academic future in jeopardy. This is the worst form of plagiarism.

Here is another explanation from the 2010, sixth edition of the *Manual of The American Psychological Association* (APA):

*Plagiarism:* Researchers do not claim the words and ideas of another as their own; they give credit where credit is due. Quotations marks should be used to indicate the exact words of another. *Each* time you paraphrase another author (i.e., summarize a passage or rearrange the order of a sentence and change some of the words), you need to credit the source in the text.

The key element of this principle is that authors do not present the work of another as if it were their own words. This can extend to ideas as well as written words. If authors model a study after one done by someone else, the originating author should be given credit. If the rationale for a study was suggested in the Discussion section of someone else's article, the person should be given credit. Given the free exchange of ideas, which is very important for the health of intellectual discourse, authors may not know where an idea for a study originated. If authors do know, however, they should acknowledge the source; this includes personal communications (pp. 15-16)

Consult the Writing Center or a recommended guide to documentation and research such as the *Manual of the APA* or the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* for guidance on proper documentation. If you still have doubts concerning proper documentation, seek advice from your instructor prior to submitting a final draft.

**Use of Work in Two or More Courses:** You may not submit work completed in one course for a grade in a second course unless you receive explicit permission to do so by the instructor of the second course.

**Penalties for Plagiarism:** Should a faculty member discover that a student has committed plagiarism; the student should receive a grade of 'F' in that course and the matter will be referred to the Honor Council for possible disciplinary action. The faculty member, however, may elect to give freshmen and sophomore students a “zero” for the assignment and to allow them to revise the assignment up to a grade of “F” (50%) if they believe that the student plagiarized out of ignorance or carelessness and not out of an attempt to deceive in order to earn an unmerited grade. This option should not be available to juniors, seniors, or graduate students, who cannot reasonably claim ignorance of documentation rules as an excuse.

**Caution:** Be very careful what you upload to Turnitin or send to your professor for evaluation. Whatever you upload for evaluation will be considered your final, approved draft. If it is plagiarized, you will be held responsible. The excuse that “it was only a draft” will not be accepted.

**Caution:** Also, do not share your electronic files with others. If you do, you are responsible for the possible consequences. If another student takes your file of a paper and changes the name to his or her name and submits it and you also submit the paper, we will hold both of you responsible for plagiarism. It is impossible for us to know with certainty who wrote the paper and who stole it. And, of course, we cannot know if there was collusion between you and the other student in the matter.

**Penalties for Cheating:** Should a faculty member discover a student cheating on an exam or quiz or other class project, the student should receive a “zero” for the assignment and not be allowed to make the assignment up. The incident should be reported to the chair of the department and to the Honor Council. If the cheating is extensive, however, or if the assignment constitutes a major grade for the course (e.g., a final exam), or if the student has cheated in the past, the student should receive an “F” in the course, and the matter should be referred to the Honor Council. Under no circumstances should a student who deserves an “F” in the course be allowed to withdraw from the course with a “W.”

**Student Right of Appeal:** Faculty will notify students immediately via the student’s TAMIU e-mail account that they have submitted plagiarized work. Students have the right to appeal a faculty member’s charge of academic dishonesty by notifying the TAMIU Honor Council of their intent to appeal as long as the notification of appeal comes within 5 business days of the faculty member’s e-mail message to the student. The *Student Handbook* provides details.

### **UConnect, TAMIU E-Mail, and Dusty Alert**

Personal Announcements sent to students through TAMIU's UConnect Portal and TAMIU E-mail are the official means of communicating course and university business with students and faculty – not the U.S. Mail and not other e-mail addresses. Students and faculty must check UConnect and their TAMIU e-mail accounts regularly, if not daily. Not having seen an important TAMIU e-mail or UConnect message from a faculty member, chair, or dean is not accepted as an excuse for failure to take important action. Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to sign-up for *Dusty Alert* (see [www.tamtu.edu](http://www.tamtu.edu)). *Dusty Alert* is an instant cell phone text-messaging system allowing the university to communicate immediately with you if there is an on-campus emergency, something of immediate danger to you, or a campus closing.

### **Copyright Restrictions**

The Copyright Act of 1976 grants to copyright owners the exclusive right to reproduce their works and distribute copies of their work. Works that receive copyright protection include published works such as a textbook. Copying a textbook without permission from the owner of the copyright may constitute copyright infringement. Civil and criminal penalties may be assessed for copyright infringement. Civil penalties include damages up to \$100,000; criminal penalties include a fine up to \$250,000 and imprisonment.

### **Students with Disabilities**

Texas A&M International University seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all qualified persons with disabilities. This University will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal education opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to register with the Director of Student Counseling and to contact the faculty member in a timely fashion to arrange for suitable accommodations.

### **Incompletes**

Students who are unable to complete a course should withdraw from the course before the final date for withdrawal and receive a "W." To qualify for an "incomplete" and thus have the opportunity to complete the course at a later date, a student must meet the following criteria:

1. The student must have completed 90% of the course work assigned before the final date for withdrawing from a course with a "W", and the student must be passing the course;
2. The student cannot complete the course because an accident, an illness, or a traumatic personal or family event occurred after the final date for withdrawal from a course;
3. The student must sign an "Incomplete Grade Contract" and secure signatures of approval from the professor and the college dean.
4. The student must agree to complete the missing course work before the end of the next long semester; failure to meet this deadline will cause the "I" to automatically be converted to a "F"; extensions to this deadline may be granted by the dean of the college.

This is the general policy regarding the circumstances under which an “incomplete” may be granted, but under exceptional circumstances, a student may receive an incomplete who does not meet all of the criteria above if the faculty member, department chair, and dean recommend it.

### **Student Responsibility for Dropping a Course**

It is the responsibility of the STUDENT to drop the course before the final date for withdrawal from a course. Faculty members, in fact, may not drop a student from a course without getting the approval of their department chair and dean.

### **Independent Study Course**

Independent Study (IS) courses are offered only under exceptional circumstances. Required courses intended to build academic skills may not be taken as IS (e.g., clinical supervision and internships). No student will take more than one IS course per semester. Moreover, IS courses are limited to seniors and graduate students. Summer IS course must continue through both summer sessions.

### **Grade Changes & Appeals**

Faculty are authorized to change final grades only when they have committed a computational error or an error in recording a grade, and they must receive the approval of their department chairs and the dean to change the grade. As part of that approval, they must attach a detailed explanation of the reason for the mistake. Only in rare cases would another reason be entertained as legitimate for a grade change. A student who is unhappy with his or her grade on an assignment must discuss the situation with the faculty member teaching the course. If students believe that they have been graded unfairly, they have the right to appeal the grade using a grade appeal process in the *Student Handbook* and the *Faculty Handbook*.

### **Final Examination**

Final Examination must be comprehensive and must contain a written component. The written component should comprise at least 20% of the final exam grade. Exceptions to this policy must receive the approval of the department chair and the dean at the beginning of the semester.