



**PSYCH 2314.101CL**  
**Lifespan Growth and Development**  
**SPRING 2024**  
**M/W 9:30 – 10:50am**

**Instructor Information:** Jennifer Abshire, M.A.  
[jabshire3@com.edu](mailto:jabshire3@com.edu)

**Student hours and location:** M/W 11:00 –12:00 Gym Office 123, Virtual hours by appointment.

**Required Textbook/Materials:** *Invitation to the Lifespan 5<sup>th</sup> Edition*, by Kathleen S. Berger

**Course Description:** This course will provide an overview of human development, from conception to birth. We will explore how people change over time in small and large ways. We will learn about three major domains of human development (biosocial, cognitive, and psychosocial) at each life stage (infancy, toddlerhood, preschool, and school-age, adolescence, early adulthood, middle adulthood, and late adulthood). Finally, we will deal with the topic of death and how we cope with the end of life in many cultures.

**Course requirements:**

**\*\*\*\*SEMESTER PROJECT\*\*\*\*** You will participate in a semester long project in which you will put the concepts that are discussed in class into practice. You will write journal entries in the form of a diary or journal to tell a personal story of parenting a child. **Each of the journal questions must be answered and key words used correctly to obtain full credit.** Along with the prompts provided, you will also *choose 5 more terms* from the chapters to discuss in your journal – all the terms **must be highlighted and bolded within the journal entry.**

Write your journals as if you are telling a story; be creative, use the terms correctly, and elaborate on each question. Answer each question fully as some questions require more than one response. **Journals should be at least 2 full pages, typed, double spaced using size 12 font with 1” margins.** Journals will be turned in via D2L by 11:59pm on the dates given *as an attached word document or pdf.* Do not write in the space provided by D2L.

**Journals are worth 120 points each and will receive full credit if the following criteria are met:**

- 60 points: terms are used correctly in **BOLD** and each question is **fully** answered and elaborated on in a unique way.
- 20 points: 5 more terms have been added from appropriate chapters and are **bolded/highlighted.**
- 30 points: specific **details** are given, and journal is creative.
- 10 points: index of all terms used.

**In Class Assignments for each chapter:** Various in class activities that will include, but not limited to, group assignments, reactions to TED talks and 1-minute questions. These cannot be made up if absent, so attendance is important.

**Social Responsibility Presentation: (in class presentation)**

Your grade will be determined by product and presentation for both choice 1 or 2. Three reputable resources will be needed.

**Choice 1:** Think of a problem in society that concerns you (ex. texting while driving). Create a 3-slide power point. Slide one will be your ‘billboard’ that defines the problem and advertises your stance. Why should others care about your concern? Slide 2 will be your *researched* suggestions to help solve the problem. Slide 3 will be your three references.

**Choice 2:** Think of an organization you want to bring awareness to. Slide 1 will be the billboard that explains the organization and why they need support. Make sure the name and what they do is clear. Slide 2 will be details about organization – are they a non-profit/how much do they give back/statistics about them. Slide 3 will be your three references.

**Critical Thinking Research:**

You will conduct your own research that stems from your Social Responsibility Project. You can take your research in any direction you choose. The research should look objectively at both sides of an argument/topic, and you will present your findings to the class in an unbiased manner at the end of the semester. (More information presented in class)

**Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula:**

Assignments	Possible Points	Letter Grade	Points Possible
Baby Journals	600	A	900-1000
In Class Assignments	200	B	800-899
Social Responsibility project	100	C	700-799
Critical Thinking Research Presentation	100	D	600-699
Extra Credit Final	30	F	599 and below
Total Points	1000		

**Late Work and Make-Up Policy:** 20% will be deducted from all assignments if late. There will be no makeup for the Final Exam, SRP or Critical Thinking Presentation.

**Attendance Policy: Students** will fill out a “**Classroom Daily Thought Card**” **each day**. Your name, date, and a thought for the day need to be on the card, along with 1 thing you are grateful for. You may add anything else after that 😊. I will use the cards to take attendance. Communication with your instructor is extremely important. If you are unable to attend class, if possible, e-mail me prior to class. Students are expected to attend each class! There will be no distinction between an excused and unexcused absence.

**Communicating with your instructor:** ALL electronic communication with the instructor must be through your COM email. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means. The best way to reach me is by email – [jabshire3@com.edu](mailto:jabshire3@com.edu) .

<b>Student Learner Outcome</b>	<b>Maps to Core Objective</b>	<b>Assessed via this Assignment</b>
Describe the stages of the developing person at different periods of the lifespan from birth to death.	Empirical and Quantitative	Baby Journals
Discuss the social, political, economic, and cultural forces that affect the development process of the individual	Social Responsibility	Baby Journals
Identify factors of responsible personal behavior with regard to issues such as sexual activity, substance abuse, marriage and parenting	Critical Thinking	Journal 4
Explain the biosocial, cognitive, and psychological influences throughout the lifespan as an ongoing set of processes, involving both continuity and change.	Communication Skills (written)	Baby Journals
Describe the different developmental perspectives of the major theories of development	Empirical	Journal 1
Identify examples of some of the cultural and ethnic differences that influence development throughout the lifespan	Empirical	Journal 5
Discuss the various causes or reasons for disturbances in the developmental process	Empirical	Journal 1
(CS1) Develop, interpret and express ideas through written communication	Communication Skills (Written)	Journals
(CS2) Develop, interpret and express ideas through oral communication	Communication Skills (Oral)	Critical Thinking Assignment
(SR) Demonstrate intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.	Social Responsibility	SRP Assignment

**Academic Dishonesty:** Any incident of academic dishonesty will be dealt with in accordance with college policy and the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty – such as using AI to write any assignments, copying another student’s Journal or Final is an extremely serious offense and will result in a **grade of zero** on that assignment and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate discipline action.

**Student Concerns:** If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact me using the contact information previously provided. If, after discussing your concern with me, you continue to have questions, please contact Department Chair Shinya Wakao at [swakao@com.edu](mailto:swakao@com.edu) or (409) 933-8107.

Week		Plan of Action <i>This schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.</i>	What's Due Monday	What's Due Wednesday
1 Jan. 16-19		Introductions/Ch. 1 The Science of Human Development	No Class MLK Holiday	
2 Jan. 22-26		Ch.2 From Conception to Birth	notecards	
3 Jan.29- Feb.2		Ch.3 The First 2 years– Body and Mind		
4 Feb. 5-9		Ch. 4 The First 2 years-Psychosocial	Baby Journal 1	
5 Feb. 12-16		Ch.5 Early Childhood: Body and Mind		
6 Feb. 19-23		Ch.6 Early Childhood: Psychosocial		
7 Feb. 26- Mar. 1		Ch.7 Middle Childhood: Body and Mind		
8 Mar. 4-8		Ch.8 Middle Childhood: Psychosocial	Baby Journal 2	
Mar. 11-15		<b>SPRING BREAK</b>		
9 Mar. 18-22		Ch. 9 Adolescence: Body and Mind		
10 Mar. 25-29		Ch.10 Adolescence: Psychosocial		
11 Apr.1-5		Ch. 11. Emerging Adulthood	Baby Journal 3	Social Responsibility Project
12 Apr. 8-12		Ch.12 Adulthood: Body and Mind		
13 Apr. 15-19		Chapter 13 Adulthood: Psychosocial	Baby Journal 4	Last Day to turn in Late Work
14 Apr. 22-26	22 <sup>nd</sup> – W Day	Chapter 14 Late Adulthood: Body and Mind/ Ch. 15. Late Adulthood: Psychosocial		
15 Apr. 29- May 3		//Epilogue: Death and Dying Presentations	Baby Journal 5	Critical Thinking Presentation
16 May 6-10	Finals Week	Critical Thinking Presentations		

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## Institutional Policies and Guidelines

**Grade Appeal Process:** Concerns about the accuracy of grades should first be discussed with the instructor. A request for a change of grade is a formal request and must be made within six months of the grade assignment. Directions for filing an appeal can be found in the student handbook [https://www.com.edu/student-services/docs/Student\\_Handbook\\_2023-2024\\_v2.pdf](https://www.com.edu/student-services/docs/Student_Handbook_2023-2024_v2.pdf). *An appeal will not be considered because of general dissatisfaction with a grade, penalty, or outcome of a course. Disagreement with the instructor's professional judgment of the quality of the student's work and performance is also not an admissible basis for a grade appeal.*

**Academic Success & Support Services:** College of the Mainland is committed to providing students the necessary support and tools for success in their college careers. Support is offered through our Tutoring Services, Library, Counseling, and through Student Services. Please discuss any concerns with your faculty or an advisor.

**ADA Statement:** Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to contact Kimberly Lachney at 409-933-8919 or [klachney@com.edu](mailto:klachney@com.edu). The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the Student Success Center.

**Textbook Purchasing Statement:** A student attending College of the Mainland is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

**Withdrawal Policy:** Students may withdraw from this course for any reason prior to the last eligible day for a "W" grade. Before withdrawing students should speak with the instructor and consult an advisor. Students are permitted to withdraw only six times during their college career by state law. The last date to withdraw from the 1<sup>st</sup> 8-week session is February 28. **The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is April 22.** The last date to withdraw for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-week session is May 1. The last date to withdraw for spring mini session is May 29.

**FN Grading:** The FN grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The FN grade may be issued for cases in which the student ceases or fails to attend class, submit assignments, or participate in required capacities, and for which the student has failed to withdraw. The issuing of the FN grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an FN grade.

**Early Alert Program:** The Student Success Center at College of the Mainland has implemented an Early Alert Program because student success and retention are very important to us. I have been asked to refer students to the program throughout the semester if they are having difficulty completing assignments or have poor attendance. If you are referred to the Early Alert Program, you will be contacted by someone in the Student Success Center who will schedule a meeting with you to see what assistance they can offer in order for you to meet your academic goals.

**Resources to Help with Stress:**

If you are experiencing stress or anxiety about your daily living needs including food, housing or just feel you could benefit from free resources to help you through a difficult time, please click here <https://www.com.edu/community-resource-center/>. College of the Mainland has partnered with free community resources to help you stay on track with your schoolwork, by addressing life issues that get in the way of doing your best in school. All services are private and confidential. You may also contact the Dean of Students office at [deanofstudents@com.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@com.edu) or [communityresources@com.edu](mailto:communityresources@com.edu).