



PSYC-2314-011I4
Lifespan Growth and Development
Summer 2025
ONLINE

Instructor Information

Name: Douglas A. Alvarez, M.A.

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Phone: (409) 933-8435

Office hours

Monday - Friday: Online by appointment or email

Office Location

Social and Behavioral Sciences Department, LRC Bldg., Suite A Room 228

Required Textbook/Materials:

The Invitation to the Lifespan, 5th edition: by Kathleen S. Berger

Course Description:

Life-Span Growth and Development is a study of social, emotional, cognitive and physical factors and influences of a developing human from conception to death. Prerequisites: TSIA2 945-990 ELAR/CRC test AND 5 or higher on Essay OR 910-944 on CRC with 5-6 on Diagnostic Test + 5 or higher on Essay, or IRW 0320 with a grade of "C" or better. This is an academic transfer course.

Course requirements:

Communication

Communication will take place primarily through COM email, so be sure to check your email regularly.

I prefer for students to contact me directly through my COM email address. Please put "Online LIFESPAN Student" in the subject area.

It is my policy to respond to discussion posts, messages, and emails within 48 hours, weekends and holidays excepted. I do hold my students to this same policy, so be sure to check your COM email regularly.

Quiz and Exam grades will be posted immediately to your Grade Center, and grades for Writing Assignments and Discussion Forums will generally be update on Mondays and Fridays.

Please sign up for Class Announcements! We will be using the GroupMe app for this communication. It is a quick way for me to send out information. I will always send information by email as well, but this will allow you to get information immediately.



Participation

You are expected to log into the course a **minimum of 5 times per week** and you should expect to spend at least 5-6 hours a week in the course reviewing lessons and other course material.

The discussion component of the course requires you to engage your fellow students in “conversation,” which requires you to regularly read and respond to posts. Due to the online nature of this course, it is up to the student to provide thoughtful and elaborate responses to discussion posts for the instructor to measure the students’ understanding of the material. In addition, any aggressive, rude, degrading, etc., posts may be deleted without notice to the student. All such responses will receive a grade of 0 for the deleted thread.

Please understand that minimal participation will result in minimal points.

More information about expectations in regards to your postings and replies is provided below in the Grading Rubrics.

Method of Instruction

This course primarily consists of online lessons and discussions provided by the instructor. Additionally, videos and other supplementary articles may be used to emphasize key issues. The online lessons parallel and reinforce assigned readings; therefore it is essential that students keep up to date with their online work. The online lessons will be open for one week, giving you plenty of time to complete the required materials.

Coursework Policy

All coursework will be assigned and opened online at the start of the semester. For this course, you may begin working on the coursework beginning at **12:00am** on that **MONDAY (JUNE 2nd)** through 11:59pm on **THURSDAY (July 3rd)** of the final week.

IMPORTANT: Due to it being the last week of classes, **Week 5** will be short week.

****ALL WEEK 5 ASSIGNMENTS WILL HAVE A DUE DATE OF THURSDAY July 3rd at NOON 12p.****

YOU MUST COMPLETE AT LEAST 2 ASSIGNMENTS ON DAY 1 TO NOT BE DROPPED FROM THE CLASS.

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE FIRST DAY ASSIGNMENTS, **ALL ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE OPEN ON THE FIRST DAY AND CLOSE ON THEIR ASSIGNED WEEKS.**

You are always welcome to work ahead, but the assignments will close at the end of their assigned week. Keep in mind, that the last week of classes will be a short week and WEEK 3 assignments will close on the last Thursday at NOON 12p

****WEEK 5 ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE COMPLETED BY THURSDAY AT NOON 12pm****

Determination of Course Grade:

Chapter Quizzes

There will be a total of 16 Chapter Quizzes and 1 Syllabus Quiz, with each quiz having a **maximum of 20 points**. Quizzes will be assigned for each chapter and each quiz will have a total of 20 questions. Chapter Quizzes may include a combination of true/false, multiple choice, and/or matching questions. Each Chapter Quiz will be timed and you will have a total of 30 minutes to complete each quiz.

I will DROP your lowest Quiz Grade

All students must complete the online quizzes by the scheduled date. There are **NO Make-up Quizzes**.

NOTE: Please be aware that although you have one full week to take the quizzes, once the quiz has started it must be completed in one timed session. You will also be allowed 2 attempts for each quiz but your grade will be calculated by your **LAST ATTEMPT NOT YOUR HIGHEST GRADE**.

Discussion Forum Posts:

Each student will be required to complete 1 Introduction Forum and 8 Discussion Forum posts throughout the semester. These posts will allow you to discuss a topic related to the assigned chapter in greater depth.

In the Introduction Forum, each student will be required to complete an Introduction Post during the first DAY of classes. This post will allow you to introduce yourself to the class with a short biography. In this biography, you can include any details about yourself that will allow your fellow students to “put a person to the name”. The Introductions Forum Post will be worth a **maximum of 35 points**.

Each Discussion Forum Post has the following instructions:

1. Review the assigned article(s) or video(s)
2. Post a brief description of the topic and discuss what they have learned
3. Post a brief summary of their thoughts are on the topic
4. Reply to a minimum of one other student’s posts and rate it

Each Discussion Forum Post will be worth a **maximum of 35 points**.

You will earn up to 10 points for your description of the topic and what you have learned, up to 10 points for your thoughts on the topic, and up to 15 points for your reply to another student.

NOTE: Responses can be deleted at the discretion of the instructor. Responses will only be deleted if the instructor determines them to be aggressive, rude, degrading, etc., and they may be deleted without notice to the student. All such responses will receive a grade of 0 for the deleted thread. Please refer to the syllabus for more information regarding student conduct and expectations.

AI POLICY: Any assignment containing any AI generated material will receive a **grade of zero** and every assignment in that specific section of grading will receive a grade of zero (e.g. getting caught using AI on one writing assignment will result in you receiving a 0 on ALL of your writing assignments).

In addition, the student can be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate discipline action.

**AI CHECKER WILL BE USED IF THE PROFESSOR SUSPECTS AI WAS USED TO
COMPLETE AN ASSIGNMENT**

ANY SCORE OF 50% or HIGHER WILL BE AT RISK OF BEING GRADED AS A 0

I will DROP your lowest Discussion Forum Post Grade

Presentation Post

Each student will be required to complete 1 Presentation Post at the end of the semester. This Presentation Post will help students examine some of the ethical issues within psychology and identify how these impact our society on the community, state and national level. Further, this presentation will allow students to examine the importance of being knowledgeable of their own personal biases and/or stereotypes, and how they can be more informed in their future interactions.

Each Presentation Post has the following instructions:

1. Review the assigned Discussion Forum topic(s)
2. Develop and record a **10 minute** minimum presentation related to a topic of your choice. Specific instructions will be provided in Blackboard.
3. Write a brief summary of your presentation (2 page minimum).
4. Share your presentation with the instructor through YouTube, Screen-Cast-O-Matic, etc.. Specific instructions will be provided.

Each Presentation Post will be worth a **maximum of 100 points**. You will earn up to 25 points for Quality of Information and Organization, up to 25 points for Quality of Verbal Communication, up to 25 points for Quality of Non-Verbal Communication and up to 25 points for the Written Summary.

ALL PRESENTATIONS LESS THAN 10 MINUTES WILL NOT BE GRADED!

WORK ON THESE EARLY AND GET THEM IN EARLY.

Writing Assignments

There will be a total of 16 Writing Assignments, with each exam having a maximum of 20 points. Writing Assignments will be more personal in nature and allow you to apply topics from the text, lectures, and course material to your personal life. Writing Assignments are meant to be more introspective and will cover some topics that some believe to be personal.

All students must complete the online Writing Assignments by the scheduled date. There are **NO Make-up** Writing Assignments.

I will DROP your lowest Writing Assignment Grade

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Detailed Grading Formula

ASSIGNMENT	POINTS EACH	TOTAL POINTS
Chapter Quizzes (16)*	20	320*
Introduction Forum (1)	35	35
Discussion Forum (7)**	35	245**
Writing Assignments (16)***	20	300***
Presentation Post	100	100
GRAND TOTAL		1000

*Your Lowest Quiz Grade will be dropped

**Your Lowest Discussion Grade will be dropped

***Your Lowest Writing Assignments Grade will be dropped

Grading Scale

EARNED POINTS	LETTER GRADE
900 – 1000	A
800 – 899	B
700 – 799	C
600 – 699	D
0 – 599	F

Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy

Late Work/Make-Up Policy: It is advised that you submit **ALL** assignments **BEFORE THE DUE DATE.**

There are **NO** make-up quizzes, assignments, discussions or exams! **With NO exception!** I leave them all open for a wide period of time to give you every opportunity to complete them within the required period. The dates and times that the graded materials are available will be clearly visible in Blackboard. The due dates will also be posted on the course schedule.

NOTE: The instructor reserves the right to make changes and accommodations regarding late work, but will only do so if accommodations are discussed prior to the due date. **AFTER THE DUE DATE, NO ACCOMMODATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED OR LATE WORK.**

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NOTE: The instructor reserves the right to make changes and accommodations regarding late work, but will only do so if accommodations are discussed prior to the due date. **AFTER THE DUE DATE, NO ACCOMMODATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED OR LATE WORK.**

Extra Credit Opportunities: There will be ways to earn extra credit. All extra credit opportunities will be posted with directions and due dates using ANNOUNCEMENTS in Brightspace/D2L.

Be sure to closely monitor your email and ANNOUNCEMENTS for these opportunities. If you miss the due date there will be NO MAKE-UP EXTRA CREDIT.

Attendance Policy:

If you want to pass, come to class. In an online environment, this means that you are expected to log into the course a minimum of 5 times per week and you should expect to spend at least 6 – 7 hours a week in the course reviewing lessons and other course material. The online material goes beyond the material presented in the text, and you will be held accountable for this material on the exams and course assignments. The discussion component of the course also requires you to engage your fellow students in “conversation,” which requires you to regularly read and respond to posts. **For each week that you do not log in a minimum of 4 times, 15 points (per week) will be deducted from your overall points total.**

EXTRA CREDIT:

Extra Credit can be assigned throughout the semester at the instructors discretion.

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. (Faculty may add additional statement requiring monitoring and communication expectations via D2L or other LMS)

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment
1. Describe the stages of the developing person at different periods of the lifespan from birth to death.	Critical Thinking	Discussion Board Questions, Quizzes and Writing Assignments

2. Discuss the social, political, economic, and cultural forces that affect the development process of the individual	Empirical and Quantitative	Discussion Board Questions, Quizzes and Writing Assignments
3. Identify factors of responsible personal behavior with regard to issues such as sexual activity, substance abuse, marriage and parenting	Critical Thinking	Discussion Board Questions, Quizzes and Writing Assignments
4. Explain the biosocial, cognitive, and psychological influences throughout the lifespan as an ongoing set of processes, involving both continuity and change.	Critical Thinking	Discussion Board Questions, Quizzes, Writing Assignments, and Presentation
5. Describe the different developmental perspectives of the major theories of development	Critical Thinking	Discussion Board Questions, Quizzes and Writing Assignments
6. Identify examples of some of the cultural and ethnic differences that influence development throughout the lifespan.	Critical Thinking	Discussion Board Questions, Quizzes, Presentation and Writing Assignments
7. Discuss the various causes or reasons for disturbances in the develop process	Empirical and Quantitative	Discussion Board Questions, Quizzes, Presentation and Writing Assignments
8. (CS1) Develop, interpret and express ideas through written communication	Communication Skills (Written)	Discussion Board Questions, Presentation, Writing Assignments
9. (CS2) Develop, interpret and express ideas through oral communication	Communication Skills (Oral)	Presentation
10. (SR) Demonstrate intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility and the	Social Responsibility	

ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.		Discussion Board Questions, Presentation and Writing Assignments
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Academic Dishonesty:

Any incident of academic policy will be dealt with in accordance with college policy and the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty – such as cheating on exams is an extremely serious offense and will result in a **grade of zero** on that exam and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate discipline action.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is using someone else's words or ideas and claiming them as your own. Plagiarism is a very serious offense. Plagiarism includes paraphrasing someone else's words without giving proper citation, copying directly from a website and pasting it into your paper, using someone else's words without quotation marks. Any assignment containing any plagiarized material will receive a **grade of zero** and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate discipline action.

Link(s) to resource(s) about avoiding plagiarism:

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/02/>

<http://en.writecheck.com/ways-to-avoid-plagiarism/>

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In addition, the student can be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate discipline action.

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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 Dr. Shinya Wakao at 409-933-8107 or swakao@com.edu.

Course outline

DATE	CHAPTER & TOPIC	Quiz	Assignment Due Dates Below
Week 1	Syllabus and Getting Started 1. The Beginning: The Science of Human Development	Syllabus Ch. 1	Introduction Post Writing Assignment 1
	2. The Beginning: From Conception to Birth	Ch. 2	Writing Assignment 2 Discussion Forum 1
	3. The First Two Years: Body and Mind	Ch. 3	Writing Assignments 3
	4. The First Two Years: The Social World	Ch. 4	Writing Assignments 4 Discussion Forum 2
Week 2	5. Early Childhood: Body and Mind	Ch. 5	Writing Assignments 5
	6. Early Childhood: The Social World	Ch. 6	Writing Assignments 6 Discussion Forum 3
	7. Middle Childhood: Body and Mind	Ch. 7	Writing Assignments 7
	8. Middle Childhood: The Social World	Ch. 8	Writing Assignments 8 Discussion Forum 4
Week 3	9. Adolescence: Body and Mind	Ch. 9	Writing Assignments 9
	10. Adolescence: The Social World	Ch. 10	Writing Assignments 10 Discussion Forum 5
	11. Adulthood: Emerging Adulthood	Ch. 11	Writing Assignments 11
	12. Adulthood: Body and Mind	Ch. 12	Writing Assignments 12
Week 4	13. Adulthood: The Social World	Ch. 13	Writing Assignments 13 Discussion Forum 6
	14. Late Adulthood: Body and Mind	Ch. 14	Writing Assignments 14
	15. Late Adulthood: The Social World	Ch. 15	Writing Assignments 15 Discussion Forum 7
	16. Epilogue: Death and Dying	Ch. 16	Writing Assignments 16 Discussion Forum 8
Week 5	Final Presentation		

NOTES:

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You are always welcome to work ahead, but the assignments will close at the end of their assigned week. Keep in mind, that the last week of classes will be a short week and assignments will close on the last Thursday at NOON 12p

****THURSDAY ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE COMPLETED BY NOON 12pm****

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_2024-2025_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, Student Accessibility Services Coordinator

Phone: 409-933-8919

Email: AccessibilityServices@com.edu

Location: COM Doyle Family Administration Building, 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 1st 5-week session is June 30. The last date to

withdraw from the 10-week session is July 29. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 5-week session is August 1.

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 or communityresources@com.edu.

Nondiscrimination Statement:

The College District prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, veteran status, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity and gender expression), or any other basis prohibited by law. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of College District policy.