

**PSYC 2314.011 IN Course Syllabus  
Lifespan Growth & Development  
Spring 2024  
Online**

**Course Information**

**Instructor Information:**

Ms. Candi Hollier, M.A., chollier@com.edu

**Office Hours and Location:**

I will post online office hours in an Announcement during the first week of the semester. Office hours are conducted using COM Email. No face-to-face option exists.

**Required Textbook:**

Invitation to the Life Span, 5th Edition; By Kathleen Stassen Berger; Published by Worth Publishers, 2022.

**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.

**Course Requirements:**

This course primarily consists of online lessons and discussions provided by the instructor. A variety of means will be employed to evaluate student performance.

**Determination of Course Grade**

**Discussions:**

Discussions represent the interactive component of this course. The graded topics relate to the course readings, presentations, and/or current events taking place in psychology today. These forums are a way of exchanging information with your fellow students. You will receive a grade for your *thoughtful* participation in the discussions associated with each of the topics. Remember: **unsupported opinions have no place in an academic environment**. You must be able to demonstrate your knowledge and research on a particular topic from reliable resources.

“Participation” means that for each topic, you should post an Initial Post (a minimum of 300 words) as well as a Response Post to 1 other student (a minimum of 300 words) for full credit. Graded course Discussions employ a “post first” setting that requires students to post their Initial Post before gaining access to read other students’ posts. Attempts to subvert this setting by submitting a blank initial post, posting gibberish, or by any other methods will result in a grade of “0” for the unit discussion - **No exceptions**.

**\*\*\*\* NOTE: Discussion Initial Posts and Response Posts have two  
DIFFERENT due dates! \*\*\*\***

**All graded discussion posts are due by 11:59pm on the due date listed on the course schedule. Pay close attention to due dates!**

Ground Rules for Online Discussion:

1. We will respect each other's' confidentiality at all times! Though it is unlikely that we will discuss sensitive personal information in this course, please be aware that all members of this online course must hold any personal information revealed on Brightspace in strict confidence.
2. In the interest of promoting critical thinking, and serious discussion, students should be prepared to have their views challenged by the instructor and/or fellow students. Respect the right of others to have differing beliefs and attitudes. We do not all have to agree. However, we do need to be respectful in the way we disagree.
3. Disruptive behavior, flaming, or any behavior interfering with teaching and/or learning, will not be tolerated.
4. Any violation of these guidelines will result in an immediate zero for the discussion. Any second offense will result in a zero for that discussion as well AND will prevent students from participating in any upcoming discussion topics WITHOUT any option for alternative assignment to make up for missing discussion grades.

**More guidelines for online discussion provided in the Course Orientation document.**

**Oral Presentation Assignment:**

This course includes an oral presentation that will be recorded and submitted as a graded assignment for course credit. There is an "Oral Presentation" module of this course containing all the pertinent information necessary and required for completing this assignment. **DO NOT skip any of the documents or links provided in that folder.** It is your responsibility to review all documents and links thoroughly, and submit the assignment by the due date listed on the course schedule. **NO LATE SUBMISSIONS will be accepted.** A score of zero will be applied to any presentation not submitted by the deadline. A presentation submitted in the incorrect format, emailed to the instructor, or inaccessible by the instructor at the time of grading will receive a grade deduction of 20%.

This Oral Presentation assignment will also include a required **APA Publication Manual (version 7) styled "References" page** submitted to Brightspace and account for a percentage of your Oral Presentation assignment grade.

As you prepare to complete this presentation assignment, you may want to utilize the Speaking, Reading, and Writing Center in TV 1306. You must make an appointment to use the Speaking Booths or to work with a tutor on oral

communication. Contact the [Tutoring Center](#) for more information on obtaining assistance.

Upload your video to your COM OneDrive, YouTube (MUST be either Public or Unlisted – NEVER Private!), or Google Drive. Once you have your link, post the link to the “Oral Presentation Assignment – Submission Area” in Brightspace. DO NOT EMAIL THE LINK! A presentation submitted in the incorrect format or emailed to the instructor will be given a grade deduction of 20%. You MUST ensure that I have access to your video, especially if you are using OneDrive! If I cannot access the video when I go to grade it, it will receive a grade of “0” for the presentation assignment!

It is your responsibility to verify that your video link is properly submitted and that the submitted link to your presentation video is accurate and fully functional. It is also your responsibility to verify that the submitted video itself is accurate, complete, and appropriate. More information on submitting your Presentation is located in the “Oral Presentation” section of the course.

An ungraded “Oral Presentation Assignment Questions” Discussion topic will be provided where you may ask the instructor and your fellow classmates’ questions about all aspects of the assignment. You will have the option to post anonymously, should you feel nervous about asking a silly question. NOTE: There are no silly questions.

### **Unit Exams:**

There are 4 Unit Exams – one at the end of each Unit. Exams will consist of 50 multiple-choice, matching, labeling, &/or True/False questions from the Unit. The Exams will be worth 100 points and timed in Brightspace. **Once the time limit is reached, you will be forced to submit the exam.** The Unit Exams will be due by 11:59pm on the due date listed on the course schedule.

### **Final Exam:**

There will be a required cumulative Final Exam at the end of the course. The Final Exam will consist of 7 essay questions. Your answers to these essay questions should be between 130-150 words, reflect a thorough understanding of the concepts as discussed in **this** course, and be well-written with few spelling or other grammatical errors. Citations are not required or recommended and will not count toward the minimum word count. “Google” and related search engines are not acceptable sources for your answers. I do not want to know what you can Google; I want to know what you have learned from this course. Copy/Paste plagiarism will be grounds for a zero for the final exam, and a possible zero for the entire semester. The Final Exam is timed in Brightspace. **Once the time limit is reached, you will be forced to submit the exam.** The Final Exam will be due by 11:59pm on the due date listed on the course schedule.

## Detailed Grading Formula:

Graded Course Work	Percentage
4 Unit Exams	40%
5 Discussions	20%
Oral Presentation	20%
1 Final Exam	20%

## Grading Scale:

Percentage Range	Letter Grade
90% - 100%	A
80% - 89%	B
70% - 79%	C
60% - 69%	D
Below 59%	F

## Make-Up Policy

There are absolutely **NO** make-up exams, oral presentations, reference pages, or graded discussions! The dates and times that the graded materials are available will be clearly visible in this document and on the attached course schedule. Graded coursework is open and available for a wide period and you have a complete and detailed schedule from the first day of the semester. There is no excuse for not submitting assessments by the due date. It is not my responsibility to accommodate you for waiting until the last minute to complete and submit graded course work. Due dates are never suggestions of when to *start* an assessment.

## 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 3 times per week** and you should expect to spend at least 4-6 hours a week in the course reviewing lessons, and other course material, and completing assignments, exams, and discussions.

**NOTE:** If for any reason the college closes, continue to work on the assignments spelled out in your syllabus and refer to Brightspace for further instructions.

## Course Communication:

I generally respond to COM Emails within 36 hours, weekends and holidays excluded. 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 means. Also note that grades and other course-related information are not discussed via telephone, as it is impossible to verify the identity of the individual on the other end of the line.

## Student Learner Outcomes & Associated Objectives:

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment
Describe the stages of the developing person at different periods of the life span from birth to death.	Communication Skills	Final Exam Q1
Discuss the social, political, economic, and cultural forces that affect the development process of the individual.	Social Responsibility	Final Exam Q2
Identify factors of responsible personal behavior with regard to issues such as sexual activity, substance abuse, marriage, and parenting.	Social Responsibility	Final Exam Q3
Explain the biosocial, cognitive, and psychological influences throughout the lifespan as an ongoing set of processes, involving both continuity and change.	Critical Thinking	Final Exam Q4
Describe the different developmental perspectives of the major theories of development (i.e. cognitive, learning, humanistic, and psychodynamic).	Communication Skills	Final Exam Q5
Identify examples of some of the cultural and ethnic differences that influence development throughout the lifespan.	Social Responsibility	Final Exam Q6 & Oral Presentation
Discuss the various causes or reasons for disturbances in the developmental process.	Communication Skills	Final Exam Q7

### Academic Dishonesty:

Any incident of academic dishonesty will be dealt with in accordance with college policy and the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty is an extremely serious offense and may result in a penalty up to, and including, a **grade of zero** on that exam/assignment/etc. and possible referral to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate disciplinary action, including possible dismissal from the course. The instructor reserves the right to define "Academic Dishonesty." Below are some examples of Academic Honesty (not an exhaustive list; academic dishonesty is not limited to only these types of incidences):

## 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/final/discussion/etc., using someone else's words without quotation marks. Any assessment 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.

### **Links to Resources about Avoiding Plagiarism:**

1. [Purdue OWL: Avoiding Plagiarism](#)
2. [Plagiarism.org](#)

## Cheating

Cheating includes looking at or copying from another student's exam, having another person take an exam or complete a project or assignment for you, bringing/accessing unauthorized notes, texts, audio/video recordings, electronic devices, or other materials to complete an online exam, and/or obtaining or distributing unauthorized copies of exams or any part of an exam.

## Collusion

Collusion is inappropriately collaborating on assignments designed to be completed independently. All graded coursework in this course is designed to be completed independently.

**Please** -- if you are having trouble of any kind discuss it with me. The tiny advantage you would get from cheating is vastly outweighed by the risk you would be taking. I am willing to help you in any way I can, but I will NOT excuse academic dishonesty no matter how much I like you or feel sorry for you.

### **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. Wakao at [swakao@com.edu](mailto:swakao@com.edu) or 409-933-8107.

### **Course Schedule:**

All assessment activities listed on this course schedule are due by 11:59 pm on the date listed in the tables below. NOTE: This is the **official** schedule for the semester. Any conflicting information found within Brightspace is irrelevant and accidental.

Getting Started: January 16 - January 23

<b>Assignment Type</b>	<b>Assignment Name</b>	<b>Due Date/Date Range</b>
<b>Required Readings</b>	All documents located in the Getting Started section.	January 16 - January 23
<b>Assessment(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Getting Started Quiz</b></li> <li>• <b>Student Introductions</b></li> </ul>	<b>Tuesday, January 23 by 11:59</b>

### Unit 1: January 23 - February 20

<b>Assignment Type</b>	<b>Assignment Name</b>	<b>Due Date/Date Range</b>
<b>Required Lessons &amp; Readings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 1</li> <li>• Chapter 2</li> <li>• Chapter 3</li> <li>• Chapter 4</li> </ul>	January 23 - February 20
<b>Discussion</b>	<b>“Nature vs. Nurture” Discussion – Initial Post</b>	<b>Tuesday, February 13 by 11:59</b>
<b>Discussion</b>	<b>“Nature vs. Nurture” Discussion – Response Post</b>	<b>Tuesday, February 20 by 11:59</b>
<b>Exam</b>	<b>Unit Exam 1</b>	February 18 to <b>Tuesday, February 20 by 11:59</b>

### Unit 2: February 20 - March 19

<b>Assignment Type</b>	<b>Assignment Name</b>	<b>Due Date/Date Range</b>
<b>Required Lessons &amp; Readings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 5</li> <li>• Chapter 6</li> <li>• Chapter 7</li> <li>• Chapter 8</li> </ul>	February 20 - March 19
<b>Discussion</b>	<b>“Divorce” Discussion – Initial Post</b>	<b>Tuesday, March 12 by 11:59</b>
<b>Discussion</b>	<b>“Divorce” Discussion – Response Post</b>	<b>Tuesday, March 19 by 11:59</b>
<b>Exam</b>	<b>Unit Exam 2</b>	March 17 to <b>Tuesday, March 19 by 11:59</b>

### Unit 3: March 19 - April 16

<b>Assignment Type</b>	<b>Assignment Name</b>	<b>Due Date/Date Range</b>
<b>Required Lessons &amp; Readings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 9</li> <li>• Chapter 10</li> <li>• Chapter 11</li> <li>• Chapter 12</li> <li>• Chapter 13</li> </ul>	March 19 - April 16
<b>Discussion</b>	<b>“Gaming Addiction” Discussion – Initial Post</b>	<b>Tuesday, April 9 by 11:59</b>
<b>Discussion</b>	<b>“Gaming Addiction” Discussion – Response Post</b>	<b>Tuesday, April 16 by 11:59</b>

Assignment Type	Assignment Name	Due Date/Date Range
Exam	Unit Exam 3	April 14 to Tuesday, April 16 by 11:59

#### Unit 4: April 16 - April 30

Assignment Type	Assignment Name	Due Date/Date Range
Required Lessons & Readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 14</li> <li>Chapter 15</li> <li>Epilogue</li> </ul>	April 16 - April 30
Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oral Presentation</li> <li>APA Formatted Reference Page</li> </ul>	January 16 to Tuesday, April 23 by 11:59
Discussion	“Euthanasia” Discussion – Initial Post	Tuesday, April 23 by 11:59
Discussion	“Euthanasia” Discussion – Response Post	Tuesday, April 30 by 11:59
Exam	Unit Exam 4	April 28 to Tuesday, April 30 by 11:59

#### Final Exam: April 30 - May 7

Assignment Type	Assignment Name	Due Date/Date Range
Required Readings	Final Exam Review	April 30 - May 7
Exam	Final Exam	May 5 to Tuesday, May 7 by 11:59

Students are accountable for timely submissions.

**Beware: Non-attendance without dropping may result in an F at the end of the semester.**

Last Day to withdraw for a grade of “W” – 4/22/2024

### 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](#). 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 career. 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 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 16-week Spring 2024 session is April 22nd, 2024.

**F<sub>N</sub> Grading:**

The F<sub>N</sub> grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The F<sub>N</sub> 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 F<sub>N</sub> grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an F<sub>N</sub> 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 visit the [COM Community 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).

## Disclaimers/Additional Policies:

### **Technology Compliance Policy**

This class uses a Learning Management System called Brightspace for lectures, assessments, and other course-related materials and links. Each student must maintain Internet access throughout the duration of this course. Additionally, students are expected to maintain a state of technical compliance, including (but not limited to):

- up-to-date browsers,
- up-to-date operating systems (i.e., Windows & Mac OS)
- multiple (minimum of 2) browsers (recommended: Chrome & Firefox),
- appropriate and adequate computer hardware,
- a stable Internet connection,
- any other up-to-date software as required by the instructor (Adobe Reader)

The instructor is not required to give consideration for lost/missing/unacceptable work stemming from technical non-compliance and/or end-user technical issues. Failure to maintain Internet or computer access shall not constitute a valid excuse for missed work. Any student who cannot keep up with the coursework owing to a lack of computer or Internet access or functionality should refer to the [Library Computer Lab hours of operation](#) and plan to complete all coursework during posted hours (including testing, as needed).

In summation, if you fail to complete an assignment or exam because your computer crashes or loses internet access, you forget to attach a file, attach a wrong/blank/empty file to an assignment, did not verify submission of the correct file/information/link/etc., or did not use the appropriate browser or operating system to access and complete course work, etc. then you are not entitled to make up the course work. If the assignment, discussion, presentation, or exam was not completed or submitted in a timely manner due to your error or due to end-user technological issues of any kind, it cannot be made up.

In the event you experience a technology problem or error, it is your responsibility to communicate ***immediately*** (not the next day, not 3 hours later) with your instructor using a working form of technology, via Email at [chollier@com.edu](mailto:chollier@com.edu). If you experience any technical problems or errors with *college* software (Brightspace, etc.), ***immediately*** notify the DE department at the College of the Mainland (COM). If possible, make a screenshot of the error and email it to your instructor as well as the COM's Helpdesk. Contacting COM's Distance Education department can be accomplished by submitting a ticket through the [DE Support Request Form](#).

### **Success Tips for Students**

1. **Read your syllabus**, re-read your syllabus, and don't lose your syllabus.

2. **Don't procrastinate.** Determine the amount of time you are going to need to spend on each portion of the course. Make sure you give yourself enough time to complete the assignments.
3. **Stay organized** & dedicate a quiet workspace to complete course readings, assignments, quizzes, and exams.
4. Break readings & course work down into **manageable goals**. Set personal deadlines and stick to them.
5. **Create a calendar of due dates** for this and all your courses using a digital calendar (Google calendar, smartphone calendar, etc.) or an old-fashioned paper calendar (Microsoft Word has Calendar templates! Can't find them? Google it!).
6. **Follow the Course Schedule!**

### **Classroom Conduct Policy**

College of the Mainland requires that students enrolled at COM be familiar with the Standards of Student Conduct, which can be found in the online [Student Handbook](#). Students are expected to be familiar with and abide by the Student Code of Conduct. Any violations of the Code of Conduct will result in a referral to the Dean of Students and may result in dismissal from this class.