



PSYC-2314-112C1,612C1
Lifespan Growth and Development
Fall 2025
Monday-Thursday 11:00a – 12:20p

Instructor Information

Name: Douglas A. Alvarez, M.A.

E-mail: DAlvarez6@com.edu

Phone: (409) 933-8435

Office hours

Monday: 10:00am – 11:00am

Tuesday: 7:50am – 8:05am (FHS)
10:00am – 11:00am

Wednesday: 9:30am – 11:00am
1:50pm – 2:20pm

Thursday: 7:50am – 8:05am (FHS)
10:00am – 11:00am

Friday: 9:00am – 10:00am (ONLINE)

Weekends: By email

Office Location

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

Required Textbook:

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.

Determination of Course Grade

Class Discussions and Attendance (15%):

Because class discussion and in-class exercises are critical to the learning process, they will count as a portion of your final grade. PLEASE BE ON TIME FOR CLASS. Attendance will be taken within the first 10 minutes of class, anyone showing up to class after attendance has been taken will be considered absent. This not only provides for an opportunity to participate in class discussion, but also provides a relatively easy way for students to earn points toward a higher grade.

Chapter Quizzes (15%):

There will be up to a total of **13 Chapter Quizzes** and **1 syllabus quiz**. Quizzes will be assigned for most chapters and will cover textbook, lecture, videos, class demonstrations, and handouts. All Chapter Quizzes will be given following the completion of a chapter. All students must complete the quizzes on the scheduled date. There are **NO Make-up Quizzes**. Some will be completed online and some in class.

I will **DROP YOUR LOWEST 2 Quiz Grades**.

Writing Assignments (40%):

There will be up to a total of **13 Writing Assignments**, with each having a maximum of 100 points. Writing assignments will be assigned for most chapters. Some will be completed online and some in class.

All students must complete the assignments on the scheduled date. There are **NO Make-up assignments**. I will drop your two lowest Writing Assignment grades.

Research Project (30%):

Each student will be required to complete a research project. The project will include a written and an oral component. This assignment 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.

Students **may choose their topic, or one will be assigned**. Examples of research paper topics will be provided throughout the semester. Grading Rubric and more detailed information will be provided after according to the course schedule/calendar.

Extra Credit (Optional):

Extra Credit opportunities will be provided throughout the semester for students to earn points toward a higher grade. All extra credit must be approved by the instructor and turned in prior to Week 7.

Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula

Grading Breakdown	
Coursework	Percent
CLASS DISCUSSION & ATTENDANCE	15
CHAPTER QUIZZES	15
WRITING ASSIGNMENTS	40
RESEARCH PROJECT	30
TOTAL POSSIBLE	100

Attendance	
Absences	Points Deducted
0	- 0
1	- 5
2	- 10
3	- 15
4	- 30
5	- 40
6 OR MORE	- 100

Grading Computation	
Letter Grade	Percent
A	90 OR MORE
B	80 - 89
C	70 – 79
D	60 – 69
F	59 OR LESS

Make-Up Policy

Failure to complete an assignment: All assignments will be due by the date assigned by the professor. NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Attendance Policy:

Because class discussion, in-class exercises, and out of class work are critical to the learning process, attendance will count towards your final grade and consist of attendance to classes and classroom participation.

PLEASE BE ON TIME FOR CLASS. Attendance will be taken within the **FIRST 10 MINUTES** of class, anyone showing up to class after attendance has been taken WILL be considered absent. On time attendance not only provides for an opportunity to participate in class discussion, but also provides a relatively easy way for students to earn points toward a higher grade. **No distinction will be made between excused vs. unexcused absences.**

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 Brightspace 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 Topics, Writing Assignments, and Quizzes
2. Discuss the social, political, economic, and cultural forces that affect the development process of the individual	Empirical and Quantitative	Discussion Topics, Writing Assignments, Quizzes and Presentation
3. Identify factors of responsible personal behavior with regard to issues such as sexual activity, substance abuse, marriage and parenting	Critical Thinking	Discussion Topics, Writing Assignments, and Quizzes
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 Topics, Writing Assignments, and Quizzes
5. Describe the different developmental perspectives of the major theories of development	Critical Thinking	Discussion Topics, Writing Assignments, and Quizzes
6. Identify examples of some of the cultural and ethnic differences	Critical Thinking	Discussion Topics, Writing Assignments, Quizzes, and Presentation

that influence development throughout the lifespan.		
7. Discuss the various causes or reasons for disturbances in the develop process	Empirical and Quantitative	Discussion Topics, Writing Assignments, Quizzes, and Presentation
8. (CS1) Develop, interpret and express ideas through written communication	Communication Skills (Written)	Discussion Topics, Writing Assignments, Quizzes, and Presentation
9. (CS2) Develop, interpret and express ideas through oral communication	Communication Skills (Oral)	Discussion Topics and Presentation
10. (SR) Demonstrate intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.	Social Responsibility	Discussion Topics, Writing Assignments, Quizzes, and Presentation

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/>

Unapproved usage of AI

Any assignment containing any AI generated material will receive a **grade of zero**, be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate discipline action, and **ALL** assignments in that category (e.g. writing assignments, homework, personal essays, etc.) will be reassessed and regraded. This may result in multiple assignments' grades being affected (e.g. lowered).

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.

Week	Day	Topics	Writing Assignments	Quizzes
1	Monday	Course Introduction Syllabus Chapter 1: The Beginning: The Science of Human Development	Chapter 1 Chapter 2	Syllabus (in Class) Chapter 1 (Online) Chapter 2 (in Class)
	Tuesday	Chapter 2: The Beginning: From Conception to Birth		
	Wednesday	Chapter 2: The Beginning: From Conception to Birth		
	Thursday	Chapter 3: The First Two Years: Body and Mind		
Week	Day	Topics	Writing Assignments	Quizzes
2	Monday	Chapter 3: The First Two Years: Body and Mind	Chapter 3 Chapter 4	Chapter 3 (Online) Chapter 4 (in Class)
	Tuesday	Chapter 4: The First Two Years: The Social World		
	Wednesday	Chapter 4: The First Two Years: The Social World		
	Thursday	Chapter 5: Early Childhood: Body and Mind		
Week	Day	Topics	Writing Assignments	Quizzes
3	Monday	Labor Day, College Closed	Chapter 5 Chapter 6	Chapter 5 (Online) Chapter 6 (in Class)
	Tuesday	Chapter 6: Early Childhood: The Social World		
	Wednesday	Chapter 6: Early Childhood: The Social World		
	Thursday	Chapter 7: Middle Childhood: Body and Mind		
Week	Day	Topics	Writing Assignments	Quizzes
4	Monday	Chapter 7: Middle Childhood: Body and Mind	Chapter 7 Chapter 8	Chapter 7 (Online) Chapter 8 (in Class)
	Tuesday	Chapter 8: Middle Childhood: The Social World		
	Wednesday	Chapter 8: Middle Childhood: The Social World		
	Thursday	Chapter 9: Adolescence: Body and Mind		
Week	Day	Topics	Writing Assignments	Quizzes
5	Monday	Chapter 9: Adolescence: Body and Mind	Chapter 9 Chapter 10	Chapter 9 (Online) Chapter 10 (in Class)
	Tuesday	Chapter 10: Adolescence: The Social World		
	Wednesday	Chapter 10: Adolescence: The Social World		
	Thursday	Chapter 11: Adulthood: Emerging Adulthood		

Week	Day	Topics	Writing Assignments	Quizzes
6	Monday	Chapter 11: Adulthood: Emerging Adulthood Chapter 12: Adulthood: Body and Mind	Chapter 11 Chapter 12 Chapter 13	Chapter 11 (Online) Chapter 12 (in Class) Chapter 13 (Online)
	Tuesday	Chapter 12: Adulthood: Body and Mind		
	Wednesday	Chapter 13: Adulthood: The Social World		
	Thursday	Chapter 13: Adulthood: The Social World		
Week	Day	Topics	Writing Assignments	Quizzes
7	Monday	Chapter 14: Late Adulthood: Body and Mind	Chapter 14 Chapter 15 Epilogue	Chapter 14 (Online) Chapter 15 (in Class) Epilogue (Online)
	Tuesday	Chapter 14: Late Adulthood: Body and Mind		
	Wednesday	Chapter 15: Late Adulthood: The Social World		
	Thursday	Chapter 15: Late Adulthood: The Social World Epilogue: Death and Dying		
Week	Day	Topics	Writing Assignments	Quizzes
8	Monday	Presentations	None	None
	Tuesday	Presentations		
	Wednesday	Presentations		
	Thursday	Presentations		

Make-Up Policy

Failure to complete an assignment: All assignments will be due by the date assigned by the professor. NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

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/student-handbook.html>

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 8-week session is October 1. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 14. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week session is November 25.

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.