

PSYC 2314-001 Lifespan Growth & Development
CRN 13188 MW 11:00-12:15 PM
Fall 2025 ST 165



Professor	William Blake Erickson, Ph.D.	Phone	210-784-2813
Office	STEM 237B	E-mail	William.Erickson@tamusa.edu
Office Hrs	By appointment	WebEx	https://tamusa.webex.com/meet/william.erickson

Course Description

From the catalog: A survey of development from birth through childhood, adolescence, adulthood, old age, and death. Physical, cognitive, socioemotional, and social issues over the lifespan will be examined. Prerequisite: PSYC 2301 and PSYC 2388.

Required Course Materials

- *Textbook:* Santrock, J. W. (2024) *Essentials of Life-Span Development* (19th ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill. ISBN-13: 9781266769009

Contact Guidelines

I make every effort to be available to aid you in your learning process. There are a number of ways in which you can contact me.

- ***Email:* Only use official university e-mail through Blackboard and include course and section (e.g., PSYC3327.002) and your full name in subject line.** This is my primary and preferred point of contact outside of the classroom. I check my messages regularly on Monday – Friday from 8 to 5. Within that timeframe, I will generally respond within 24 hours. If you don't hear back from me, email again in the event your message went to my Junk email box. On weekends, I am generally not available by email, but will reply on the subsequent Monday. If you need to contact me, plan ahead. In all communications, be specific. Your correspondence **MUST** include information as specified above. If you send an email without sufficient information, I likely won't reply or acknowledge it. Additionally, begin a new email thread in lieu of responding back to one of my emails if you are beginning a new conversation unrelated to the previous email. Professional language and formatting is expected (i.e., avoid informal correspondence styles like you would use in text messaging).
- ***Office:*** I will be available to meet by appointment.



Class Structure and Learning Objectives

The primary teaching method for this course will be lecture peppered with in-class assignments including discussion and activities designed to elucidate the information found in the text.

1. Understand the physical, cognitive, and socioemotional changes that occur across the eight major stages of development – prenatal, infancy, early childhood, mid-late childhood, adolescence, early adulthood, middle adulthood, and late adulthood
2. Recognize the importance of lifespan development research along with understanding how this research is conducted, including research methodology and ethical issues
3. Identify the impact of culture and diversity on development
4. Further develop communication skills to discuss and critique psychological research
5. Relate knowledge learned in this course about human development to the real world and your own life.

Assessment and Evaluation

Unless otherwise specified, exams and essays will be administered in-class. No late exams or assignments will be accepted. All work is to be completed independently unless indicated.

Content Exams

Three content exams will be administered, testing knowledge, application, and comprehension for materials covered since the previous exam (or in the case of Exam 1, since the beginning of class).

Online Quizzes

There are ten online quizzes administered through Blackboard. They cover each chapter of the course. Quizzes for a given unit are due at midnight the night before that unit's exam. I do NOT post due dates in Blackboard because that's tedious and you should be responsible enough to keep up with them. I do not provide make-up opportunities for them.



Cultural Literacy Development Presentation – 100 points

You will join a group of students to create a short presentation on a topic of lifespan development intersecting with cultural issues. Each group will present a unique topic/culture combination with the aim of comparing and contrasting Western cultural norms with a non-Western cultural group.

Point Breakdown for the Semester

<i>Course Component</i>	<i>Point Value</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Total Points</i>
Content Exams	100	3	300
Online Quizzes	10	17	170
Cross-Cultural Development Presentation	100	1	100
Total			570



The Bonus Situation

- Bonus points will be administered for participating in psychological research experiments through Sona. You will get 2 bonus points per credit hour you participate, for up to 3 credit hours (6 bonus points).
- There's an optional in-class paper to write late in the semester which can earn you up to 10 bonus points.

Other Important Information

In Blackboard's Course Content Folder, find a document with important information about dropping, academic integrity, emergency weather accommodations, and other important information.

Course Schedule

I will do my best to abide by this schedule. Some topics may carry over and others may end earlier than expected and we will transition to the next topic in the schedule. Any topic changes will be announced by any one or a combination of lecture, e-mail and/or Blackboard. You are responsible to keep up with any possible changes to the course schedule. Final exam date will be announced during the Fall and Spring semesters, or will take place on the final day of class during Summer. Once announced, it will be listed at <https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/academic-calendar/index.html>

Week	Date	Topic	Readings	Notes
1	25-Aug	Syllabus/Introductions/Lifespan Perspective	Chapter 1	
	27-Aug	Research Methods/Scientific Literacy	Chapter 1	
2	1-Sep	***LABOR DAY, WE MUSTN'T DO LABOR***		
	3-Sep	Basic Neuro/Biological Beginnings	Chapters 2-3	
3	8-Sep	Infancy – Physical Development	Chapter 4	
	10-Sep	Infancy – Cognitive/Socio-Emotional (SE)	Chapters 5-6	
4	15-Sep	Early Childhood – Physical Development	Chapter 7	
	17-Sep	Early Childhood – Cog/SE	Chapter 8	Quizzes due Sept 21
5	22-Sep	EXAM 1		
	24-Sep	Middle Childhood – Physical/Cog	Chapter 9	
6	29-Sep	Middle Childhood – SE	Chapter 10	
	1-Oct	Adolescence – Physical	Chapter 11	
7	6-Oct	Adolescence – Cog/SE	Chapter 12	Quizzes due Oct 12
	8-Oct	***CONFERENCE TRAVEL NO CLASS***		
8	13-Oct	EXAM 2		
	15-Oct	ANNOUNCEMENT DAY FOR CULTURE PROJECT		Attendance Required
10	20-Oct	Early Adulthood – Phys/Cog	Chapter 13	
	22-Oct	Early Adulthood – SE	Chapter 14	
11	27-Oct	Middle Adulthood – Physical/Cog	Chapter 15	
	29-Oct	Middle Adulthood – SE	Chapter 16	
12	3-Nov	Late Adulthood – Physical/Cog	Chapter 17-18	
	5-Nov	Late Adulthood – SE	Chapter 19	
13	10-Nov	Death and Dying	Chapter 20	Quizzes due Nov 9
	12-Nov	EXAM 3		
14	17-Nov	<i>In-class work day for Cultural Project</i>		
	19-Nov	<i>Out of class work day for Cultural Project</i>		
15	24-Nov	Culture Presentations, pt. 1		First four groups present
	26-Nov	***THANKSGIVING TRAVEL DAY***		
16	1-Dec	Culture Presentations, pt. 2		Second four groups present
	3-Dec	Culture Presentations, pt. 3		Third four groups present
17	5-Dec	<i>Reading day, no class</i>		
		FINALS WEEK THRU Dec 12 (Monday, 12/08 @ 10AM)		