



PSY 322.02E Lifespan Development

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Lei Zhang

Office Location: Henderson 209

Office Hours: Tue/Thu 1:00–3:00 PM and by appointment

University Email Address: lzhang7@leomail.tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: Within 48 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook(s) Required: An OER (free textbook) by Lally and Valentine-French.
<https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/540>

Course Description

Understanding Human Development is a developmental psychology course that examines the changes, both growth and decline, across the human lifespan from conception to death. It includes physical, cognitive, and socioemotional changes that help to shape our lives. Topics include the importance of the prenatal environment on development, formation of language, self-esteem and identity, romantic relationships, retirement, and dying. What you will find is that our journey through life is incredible – from learning to walk to compensating for physical declines in later life.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will recognize key issues regarding physical, cognitive, and socioemotional changes that occur across the major stages of development – prenatal, infancy, early childhood, mid-late childhood, adolescence, early adulthood, middle adulthood, and late adulthood, and death and dying.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

2. Students will demonstrate the importance of research along with understanding how this research is conducted, including research methodology and ethical issues.
3. Students will further develop communication skills to discuss psychological concepts related to developmental psychology.
4. Students will complete a service learning project that corresponds to a course topic.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Research Participation

A goal of this class is to help you become familiar with psychological research. One way to obtain this goal is to have you participate in research studies. Participating in research studies contributes to students and faculty at East Texas A&M, your understanding of how research is conducted, and human knowledge in general. All students in this class will be required to participate in the psychology department's participant pool or complete alternative assignments (see me for more information on alternative assignments).

Students must complete a total of 6 experiment credits. However, if you complete your first 4 experiment credits without any "no-shows" you will receive 2 free punctual participant credits. In other words, if you show up to your experiments on time you will only need to complete 4 experiment credits. When you first sign into the experiment management system (EMS) you will be asked to take a prescreen. The prescreen takes about 20 minutes to complete. If you complete the prescreen in the first two weeks of the semester you will receive ½ free experiment credit. This can be combined with later experiments that are worth ½ credit.

If you fail to complete this portion of the class your grade will be lowered by one full grade. In effect, if you have an 'A' in the class but fail to complete your research participation (either through participating in research studies, alternative assignments, or a mixture of both) your final grade in the class will be a 'B.' More information about participating in research, such as how to log in to the EMS, is given at the end of this syllabus.

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Needed Skills include being able to use the learning management system to access course materials. Additionally, proficiency in Microsoft Office or similar program is needed.

Instructional Methods

This is an in-person, lecture-based course. Most class sessions will feature instructor-led lectures presenting and explaining key concepts from the assigned readings. Classes also include discussions, thought exercises, and brief in-class activities to support understanding and application. Active participation is expected, including attentive engagement during lectures.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

To succeed in this course, students should keep up with the assigned readings, complete all assignments on time, and actively engage during class sessions. Attendance and participation are crucial, as in-class activities contribute to your course grade. Consistent preparation and engagement will support your learning and overall success in the course.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade:

Content Exams	40%
Participation Assignments	15%
Service Learning Project	30%
Cumulative Final Exam	15%
TOTAL	100%

Assessments

1. **Content Exams:** Testing promotes learning (Roediger & Karpicke, 2006). To support preparation, the instructor will provide study guides before each exam. There will be three content exams, each consisting of 50 multiple-choice questions. Only the **best two out of three exams** will count toward your final grade, with each counted exam worth 20%, for a total of 40% of the course grade.

2. **Participation Assignments:** Participation assignments will occur during class, so attendance is required. There are 15 assignments, each worth up to 1 point. If you miss a class with an activity, it will count as your dropped in-class assignment. Activities may include thought exercises, learning quizzes, and applications. Participation also involves being a good class citizen—avoiding the use of phones or laptops for non-academic purposes, arriving on time, and staying for the entire class session. Together, these assignments account for 15% of your course grade (1% each).

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

3. **Service Learning Project:** Students will complete a service learning project related to lifespan development and submit a corresponding paper reflecting their experience and insights. The project and paper together are worth 30% of the course grade.

4. **Cumulative Final Exam:** The cumulative final exam will be administered during final exam week. Its format will be the same as the content exams, with 50 multiple-choice questions. This exam is worth 15% of the course grade.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a East Texas A&M campus open computer lab, etc.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

1. All exams, including the content exams and the cumulative final exam, must be completed on the scheduled day. The best two out of three content exams will count toward your grade; if you miss one content exam, it will be counted as your dropped exam. All students are required to complete the cumulative final exam, and no make-up exams will be provided without documented, approved circumstances.
2. Participation assignments take place during class, and attendance is required to receive credit. There are no make-ups for missed activities unless documentation for an excused absence is provided.
3. The Service Learning Project follows a strict late work policy. Submissions within 24 hours of the deadline will receive a one-grade-step deduction (for example, A → A⁻). Submissions between 24 and 48 hours late will result in a two-grade-step deduction. Assignments submitted more than 48 hours past the deadline will receive a zero.
4. The Research Exposure Requirement and any extra credit assignments must be completed by the date the participant pool closes. Extensions will only be granted for severe circumstances with appropriate documentation. Students are strongly encouraged to complete these requirements early.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at <https://www.tamuc.edu/student-code-of-conduct/>.

If you believe someone has engaged in behaviors that do not align with the Code of Student Conduct or you have other concerns, please visit the File a Report page at <https://www.tamuc.edu/office-of-student-rights-and-responsibilities/concerns-incident-reporting/>

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

Undergraduate student academic dishonesty policy

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

Undergraduate student academic dishonesty policy

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

Graduate student academic dishonesty policy:

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesproceduresstandardsstatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

Graduate student academic dishonesty form:

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateSchool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

East Texas A&M Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage.

Artificial Intelligence

East Texas A&M acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, Chatbots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Services
Velma K. Waters Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5930

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Website: <http://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/campusServices/StudentDisabilityServices/default.aspx>

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and East Texas A&M Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week	Date	Topic
1	8/26 8/28	Syllabus/Introductions Chapter 1: Introduction to Lifespan Development
2	9/2 9/4	Chapter 1: Introduction to Lifespan Development Chapter 1: Introduction to Lifespan Development
3	9/9 9/11	Chapter 2: Heredity, Prenatal Development, and Birth Chapter 2: Heredity, Prenatal Development, and Birth
4	9/16 9/18	Chapter 3: Infancy and Toddlerhood Chapter 3: Infancy and Toddlerhood
5	9/23 9/25	Chapter 4: Early Childhood Chapter 4: Early Childhood
6	9/30 10/20	Exam 1: Chapters 1-4 Service Learning Project
7	10/7 10/9	Chapter 5: Middle and Late Childhood Chapter 5: Middle and Late Childhood
8	10/14 10/16	Chapter 6: Adolescence Chapter 6: Adolescence
9	10/21 10/23	Chapter 7: Emerging and Early Adulthood Chapter 7: Emerging and Early Adulthood
10	10/28 10/30	Exam 2: Chapters 5-7 Chapter 8: Middle Adulthood
11	11/4 11/6	Chapter 8: Middle Adulthood Chapter 9: Late Adulthood
12	11/11 11/13	Chapter 9: Late Adulthood Chapter 10: Death and Dying
13	11/18 11/20	Chapter 10: Death and Dying Exam 3: Chapters 8-10
14	11/25 11/27	Thanksgiving Break
15	12/2 12/4	Final Exam Review Service Learning Project & Research Exposure
16	12/9	Cumulative Final Exam

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.