PSY 545-01W/CRW: DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Professor Curt Carlson, PhD
University Email Address: curt.carlson@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: email
Communication Response Time: 24 hours (excluding weekends)
Office Hours (zoom): M 9-11a, W 9-10:30a, F 9-10:30a
https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/93905839186

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Santrock, John (2024). Life-Span Development (19th edition)
Print ISBN: 9781266347344
eText ISBN: 9781266768163

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to provide an overview over the field of developmental psychology. We will discuss the history, major theories and principles, research methods, and research findings in developmental psychology. Special emphasis will be placed on stability and change, variability, and biosocial mediators and moderators in development. The majority of our readings are focused on childhood and adolescence, but some also cover life span development. The field of developmental psychology is large and the topics discussed in this introductory course reflect only a selection of possible topics. Students will, however, acquire an excellent foundation of knowledge in Developmental Psychology through their critical analysis and discussion of the course material.

Throughout the course, you should keep several major questions in mind:
What is development, and how can it be measured?
What are guiding theories, themes, and principles in the field of developmental psychology?
How are these principles applied in extant research?
How do social and biological factors jointly influence development?

The *syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

What key theoretical and methodological issues need to be taken into account when designing developmental studies?

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to discuss:
1. Theories of individual development and transitions across the life-span (including cognitive, emotional, social, physical, and moral)
2. Theories of family development and transitions across the life-span
3. Theories of learning and personality development
4. Human behavior including an understanding of developmental crises, disability, exceptional behavior, addictive behavior, psychopathology, and situational and environmental factors that affect both normal and abnormal behavior
5. Strategies for facilitating optimum development over the life-span
6. Ethical and legal considerations related to human growth and development.

NASP Domains of Practice
Domain 8: Equitable Practices for Diverse Student Populations
You will have knowledge of individual differences, abilities, disabilities, and other diverse characteristics and the impact they have on development and learning.

Domain 9: Research and Evidence-Based Practice
You will have knowledge of research design, statistics, measurement, and varied data collection and analysis techniques sufficient for understanding research, interpreting data, and evaluating programs in applied settings.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed
This course will use D2L.

Instructional Methods
Video and textual lecture summaries and other supplemental course materials will be posted in D2L. Students will use these materials with the assigned reading to prepare for course assessments. Assessments will include exams, participation in online discussions, and an article summary. This online course contains the same content you'd expect in a traditional 15-week face-to-face version. You should plan on spending approximately 6-10 hours per week reading, viewing course content, completing course assignments, and participating in discussions.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course
Read the textbook. View the online materials. Complete all exams and assignments. Start your assignments early and edit them before submission. Check you LeoMail and log into D2L EVERY DAY. Important class announcements will be made via email and posted on D2L.

Broken Link Policy: Online content is checked in advance, but in rare cases a link may stop working mid-week. If a link is no longer working, notify the instructor immediately and no later

than 24 hours prior to the chapter due date. Any broken links will be remedied and announced in D2L, and therefore no adjustments will be made to student grades if this occurs.

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

Assessments

Exams (8% each)

There will be six non-cumulative exams. Each worth 8% of your overall grade in the course, for a total of 48% of your overall grade. Exams will consist of multiple-choice questions over the textbook and assigned readings.
All exams are due at 11:59 pm CT on the due date (see topic schedule).

Article Summary (22%)

Toward the end of the course, I will provide you with a recent article from the developmental psychology literature to summarize. You need to submit at least two single-spaced pages, being sure to summarize each section of the article. It is important to summarize it in your own words, and be careful of plagiarism. This summary is worth 22% of your overall grade.
It is due by 11:59 pm CT on the due date (see topic schedule).

Discussion Assignments (10% each)

There will be three discussion assignments, each of which involve posting your response to questions in D2L. Posts must demonstrate that the student has reviewed, understood, and contemplated the material for the chapter and other assigned readings. You may include information from other chapters and outside knowledge but it must be cited appropriately. However, if you ONLY cite outside sources, then I will assume that you have not read the required readings for the course. In short, outside info is encouraged but not required. You must show me what you learned in THIS course too. If the question contains multiple parts, be sure to address each. **All discussion posts are due at 11:59 pm CT on the due date (see topic schedule).**

Discussion posts will be graded using the following rubric:

5 = Excellent: well written with lots of good ideas that are all well-defended by references to the course content.

4 = Good/complete: posts with some good ideas and references to the course content. Note that this is a passing grade and not one you should be upset about. However, it means that I think you

can take your post to the "next level" if you add more content and dig deeper into your ideas. You will receive feedback on this and typically some examples or pointers to how you could accomplish this.

1-3 = Insufficient: posts with incorrect or insufficient information. Missing or minimal references to the course content. Note that this a failing grade and beneath the expectations of a graduate student. You will receive feedback on why your post did not meet the course standards.

0 = Missing: you did not complete the assignment by the due date.

Grades in between these categories (e.g., 4.5) may also be used if warranted.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University 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 ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

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

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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

Interaction with Instructor Statement

It is best to communicate with me via email (curt.carlson@etamu.edu). I will respond to emails within 24-48 hours. Please do not re-send your email unless at least 48 hours have passed since your last email.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

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 is described in detail in the Student Guidebook.
http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx

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

East Texas A&M University 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.

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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. 13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the Attendance webpage and Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01.
http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University 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 Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03
Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf

Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form

http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf

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 Resources and Services
East Texas A&M University
Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148

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Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu
Website: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University 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 University 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 ETAMU 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 ETAM campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

ETAMU Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at ETAMU, 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 Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit **www.tamuc.edu/counsel**

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COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Days	Topic
8/25 – 8/29	Topic 1; Read syllabus, Introduce yourselves in D2L, read Chapter 1
9/1 – 9/5	Topic 2; Chapter 2: Biological Beginnings
9/8 – 9/12	Topic 3; Chapter 3: Prenatal Development and Birth; **EXAM 1**
9/15 – 9/19	Topic 4; Chapter 4: Physical Development in Infancy
9/22 – 9/26	Topic 5; Chapter 5: Cognitive Development in Infancy
9/29 – 10/3	Topic 6; Chapter 6: Socioemotional Development in Infancy; *Discussion Post 1;* **EXAM 2**
10/6 – 10/10	Topic 7; Chapter 7: Physical and Cognitive Development in Early Childhood
10/13 – 10/17	Topic 8; Chapter 8: Socioemotional Development in Early Childhood; **EXAM 3**
10/20 – 10/24	Topic 9; Chapter 9: Physical and Cognitive Development in Middle/Late Childhood
10/27 – 10/31	Topic 10; Chapter 10: Socioemotional Development in Middle/Late Childhood; *Discussion Post 2;* **EXAM 4**
11/3 – 11/7	Topic 11; Chapter 11: Physical and Cognitive Development in Adolescence; **Article Summary Due**
11/10 – 11/14	Topic 12; Chapter 12: Socioemotional Development in Adolescence; *Discussion Post 3;* **EXAM 5**
11/17 – 11/21	Topic 13; Chapter 13: Physical and Cognitive Development in Early Adulthood
11/24 – 11/28	Thanksgiving Break
12/1 – 12/5; 12/10	Topic 14; Chapter 14: Socioemotional Development in Early Adulthood; **EXAM 6 on 12/10**

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