PSY 319.01W Child and Adolescent Development

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Michael W. Smart, Ph.D., MBA

Office Hours: By appointment

University Email Address: michael.smart@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: Within 48 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook(s) Required:
Lifespan Development by Riser, Spielman, and Biek
Available for free online in our course software or at
https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/lifespan-development

Course Description

This is a developmental psychology course that examines changes from conception through adolescence. It includes physical, cognitive, and socioemotional changes that help to shape our lives during this time period. Topics include the importance of the prenatal environment on development, formation of language, and self-esteem and identity.

Throughout the course, you should keep several major questions in mind:
1. What is development, and how can it be measured?
2. What are guiding theories, themes, and principles in the field of developmental psychology?
3. How are these principles applied in extant research?
4. How do social and biological factors jointly influence development?
5. What key theoretical and methodological issues need to be taken into account?

The *syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Theories of individual development and transitions from conception through adolescence (including cognitive, emotional, social, and physical)
2. Theories of family development and transitions
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

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 complete a childhood development project. (Please see Canvas for more information).

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.

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Needed Skills include being able to use the learning management system to access course materials. Additional proficiency in Microsoft Word, and Grammarly is helpful.

Instructional Methods

This course is delivered fully online. Each week, you are expected to complete the assigned readings and engage in activities that promote meaningful integration of course content. Weekly assignments are designed to help you connect current readings with previous and upcoming topics, as well as apply key concepts to real-world contexts.

Student Responsibilities and Tips for Success in the Course

This is not a self-paced course. You are expected to follow the posted weekly schedule and complete all readings, assignments, and quizzes on time. Late work will be graded

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

and assessed a late deduction of 1% per day. Because the course is fully web-based, you will need reliable access to a computer, the internet, email, and the D2L Canvas-based course and textbook.

Please check communication daily. Log into your campus email and the PSY 319 D2L course site each day for announcements, updates, clarifications, and assignment deadlines.

1. Please stay engaged with course materials. Take notes as you read the assigned chapters and other course materials, and regularly review and refine your notes to strengthen your understanding and fill in any missing details.

2. Please monitor your understanding. Quiz yourself regularly. Try defining concepts in your own words or answering several practice questions from the textbook to check comprehension.

3. Please complete all coursework and deadlines. All assignments, quizzes, and course components are required. This course builds from week to week, so skipping work will make it difficult to keep up.

4. Please reach out when you need help. The material can be challenging, and it is normal not to master everything at once. Please contact me whenever you have questions so we can address any difficulties early and keep your learning on track.

Following these recommendations can help with organization and progress towards success in the course.

GRADING

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

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89.9%

C = 70%-79.9%

D = 60%-69.9%

F = 59.9% or Below

Assessments

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

Term Project -	40%
Discussions -	30%
Quizzes -	20%
Final Exam -	10%
TOTAL –	100%

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

1. **Discussions (30% of grade):**

There will be twelve discussion posts throughout the semester. All posts must be written in APA 7, cited empirically, and submitted through the "Discussions" section in D2L, where you will also be able to read and respond to your peers' work. Each student is required to provide thoughtful comments on at least two peer responses.

Your discussion posts should clearly show that you have reviewed, understood, and reflected on the assigned chapter and related readings. You are welcome to incorporate concepts from other chapters or outside sources, but any additional information must be properly cited. If a discussion prompt includes multiple parts, ensure that you address each part thoroughly.

All discussion posts are due by 11:59 p.m. CT on the Sunday of the week in which they are assigned (see the topic schedule for details).

2. **Quizzes (20% of grade):**

Weekly reading quizzes will be administered through D2L. These quizzes are designed to assess your understanding of the week's material and will consist of a small number of multiple-choice or true/false questions.

3. **Final Exam (10% of grade):**

A cumulative final exam will include multiple-choice, true/false, and short-answer questions covering the textbook and assigned readings. Details and access instructions will be provided on D2L as the date approaches.

4. **Term Project (40% of grade):**

A term-long research project on childhood development will be written in APA 7th edition format. Each student or student team will create a referenced manual that could be used by a pediatrician's office to depict (a) age-based development milestones per Piaget's childhood development theory and Erickson's moral development theory, and (b) the most effective parenting and social skills which can be mapped to each developmental milestones to help the community support, encourage, and validate youth during each developmental stage per Bronfenbrenner's ecological systems theory.

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 the 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

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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 coursework in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include having a backup PC available at home or work, temporarily using a computer at a friend's home, a local library, an office service company, Starbucks, or an East Texas A&M campus open computer lab.

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

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

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may necessitate the instructor's modification of the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University and Professor Specific Conduct

All students enrolled at the University are expected to adhere to the principles of common decency and acceptable behavior that foster a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at https://www.tamuc.edu/student-code-of-conduct/.

Dr. Smart includes a non-judgmental discourse pledge in the introduction module of the course, to encourage group discussion which (a) supports, (b) encourages, and (c) validates one another and the strength of our diversity of upbringing.

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/

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

The *syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M are expected to support 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 have 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 prohibit the use of such software for their students 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.

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

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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/StudentDisabilitySe rvices/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.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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 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	Topic	Assignments
1	Chapter 1: Lifespan Psychology and Developmental Theories (1)	Discussion 1 Quiz 1
2	Chapter 1: Lifespan Psychology and Developmental Theories (2)	Discussion 2 Quiz 2
3	Chapter 2: Genetic, Prenatal, and Perinatal Health (1).	Discussion 3 Quiz 3
4	Chapter 2: Genetic, Prenatal, and Perinatal Health (2).	Discussion 4 Quiz 4
5	Chapter 3: Physical and Cognitive Development in Infants and Toddlers	Discussion 5 Quiz 5
6	Chapter 4: Social and Emotional Development in Infants and Toddlers	Discussion 6 Quiz 6
7	Chapter 5: Physical and Cognitive Development in Early Childhood	Discussion 7 Quiz 7
8	Chapter 6: Social and Emotional Development in Early Childhood	Discussion 8 Quiz 8
9	Chapter 7: Physical and Cognitive Development in Middle Childhood	Discussion 9 Quiz 9
10	Chapter 8: Social and Emotional Development in Middle Childhood	Discussion 10 Quiz 10
11	Chapter 9: Physical and Cognitive Development in Adolescence	Discussion 11 Quiz 11
12	Chapter 10: Social and Emotional Development in Adolescence	Discussion 12 Quiz 12
13	Final Exam Review	
14	Fall Break	
15	Final Exam	

The *syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*