



EAST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

PSY 322.01E: Lifespan Development

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2026

Tuesday/Thursday 9:30 am - 10:45 am

McDowell Business Administration Building (BA) 106

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Kolby Farris

Office Location: N/A

Office Hours: By Appointment through Zoom Via Email

University Email Address: Kfarris@leomail.tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: email

Communication Response Time: Within 48 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook(s) Required: An OER (free textbook) *Lifespan Development: A Psychological Perspective* by Lally & Valentine-French at:

<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, 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.

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Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

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

COURSE REQUIREMENTS/ASSESSMENTS

1. **Content Exams:** The content exams assess students' understanding of key concepts and developmental changes covered in the assigned readings and class lectures. There will be three in-class content exams, each consisting of 50 multiple-choice questions. A study guide will be provided before each exam. Only the two highest exam scores (NOT INCLUDING THE FINAL) will count toward the final course grade for content exams. Each exam counted is worth 20%, for a total of 40% of the course grade.
2. **Participation Assignments:** There will be 15 in-class participation assignments, each worth up to 1 point and accounting for 1% of the course grade. Assignments may include thought exercises, application activities, or attendance checks. Because these assignments are completed during class, regular attendance is required. Together, they account for 15% of the course grade.
3. **Cumulative Final Exam:** The cumulative final exam assesses students' understanding of major concepts covered throughout the course. It will be administered during final exam week and will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions. The final exam accounts for 15% of the course grade.
4. **Service-Learning Project** – Students will conduct a service-learning project related to lifespan development. Students will prepare a

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presentation corresponding to their service project. You should create this project, not AI. I have specific instructions for you to follow as a template for the presentation, and in this presentation you will describe your service, how it connects to the course, and how it impacted you. This is your final project, and there is a strict late work policy for it. Projects submitted late within 24 hours of due date will receive a one-grade step deduction, within 24-48 hours late a two-grade step deduction, and after 48 hours a grade of zero will be assigned. The project is worth 30% total. (SLO 3)

5. **Research Exposure Requirement** – A goal of this class is to help you become familiar with psychological research. (SLO 2). 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 D2L for the alternative writing assignment).

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 located in D2L.

**** In D2L I provide examples of how the research exposure can be completed by solely participating in research studies, solely doing the alternative assignments, or doing a combination of both. Be sure to note the due date that is listed at the end of the syllabus in the course calendar.**

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

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

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

Instructional Methods

This is an In-person course. Lecture materials and media will be posted, and students are expected to review these materials.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

In order to succeed in this course you need to keep up with the readings and complete the weekly assignments. I recommend checking D2L at least twice weekly. Also, be sure to start your service learning project EARLY. This will allow sufficient time to complete the service hours and prepare a presentation.

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

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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@etamu.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, an East Texas A&M University 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>

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

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

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Interaction with Instructor Statement

I do my best to respond within 48 hours of receiving an email. If you do not hear back from me within 48 hours, please email me again in case I did not receive your message. My office hours are also stated at the beginning of this syllabus. Your assignments will be graded and returned to you within two weeks.

When emailing, **include your course number/course name (PSY 322)** in the email. Correspondence with your instructor should be professional.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Late Work

There are STRICT late work policies in this course. Part of being a student is planning and being accountable. See late work statements in the Course Requirements/ Assessment section for late work policies by assignment.

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.etamu.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.etamu.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>

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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 student academic dishonesty policy
[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

Undergraduate student academic dishonesty policy
[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

East Texas A&M University Attendance

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

Artificial Intelligence

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.

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

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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@etamu.edu

Website: <http://inside.etamu.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. Visit the link below to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it. You can locate it at:

telusproduction.com/app/5108.html

East Texas A&M University Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, 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.etamu.edu/counsel

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.

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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 East Texas A&M University 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](http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf) document and/or consult your event organizer. Web url: <http://www.etamu.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 University campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Topic
1	8/20	Syllabus/Introductions
2	8/25 8/27	Chapter 1: Introduction to Lifespan Development Chapter 1: Introduction to Lifespan Development
3	9/1 9/3	Chapter 2: Heredity, Prenatal Development, and Birth Chapter 2: Heredity, Prenatal Development, and Birth
4	9/8 9/10	Chapter 3: Infancy and Toddlerhood Chapter 3: Infancy and Toddlerhood
5	9/15 9/17	Exam 1 Chapter 1-3 Service Learning Project
6	9/22 9/24	Chapter 4: Early Childhood Chapter 4: Early Childhood
7	9/29 10/1	Chapter 5: Middle and Late Childhood Chapter 5: Middle and Late Childhood
8	10/6 10/8	Chapter 6: Adolescence Chapter 6: Adolescence

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9	10/13 10/15	Exam 2 Chapters 4-6 Chapter 7: Emerging and Early Adulthood
10	10/20 10/22	Chapter 7: Emerging and Early Adulthood Chapter 8: Middle Adulthood
11	10/27 10/29	Chapter 8: Middle Adulthood Chapter 9: Late Adulthood
12	11/3 11/5	Chapter 9: Late Adulthood Exam 3 Chapters 7-9
13	11/10 11/12	Chapter 10: Death and Dying Chapter 10: Death and Dying
14	11/17 11/19	Research Exposure Service-Learning Project & Research Exposure workday
15	11/24 11/26	Thanksgiving Break
16	12/1 12/3	Final Exam Review Service-Learning and Research Exposure Work Session
17	12/8 12/10	Cumulative Final Exam

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