



PSY 322.02E: Lifespan Development

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Lei Zhang
Office Location: Henderson 202A
Office Hours: By appointment via email
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

Lifespan Development is a developmental psychology course that examines growth, change, and decline across the human lifespan from conception to death. The course explores physical, cognitive, and socioemotional development and how these areas interact to shape our lives. Topics include the importance of the prenatal environment for development, language development, self-esteem and identity formation, romantic relationships, retirement, aging, and death and dying. Throughout the course, students will discover that the journey through life is remarkable, from learning to walk to compensating for physical declines in later life.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will describe physical, cognitive, and socioemotional changes across the major stages of human development, including the prenatal period, infancy, early childhood, middle and late childhood, adolescence, early adulthood, middle adulthood, late adulthood, and death and dying.
2. Students will explain the role of research in developmental psychology and identify major research methods and ethical issues involved in studying human development.
3. Students will apply developmental psychology concepts when analyzing and discussing issues related to human development.
4. Students will complete a service-learning project that applies a course concept to a community-based experience or activity.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students should be able to use the D2L learning management system to access course materials, submit assignments, and view course announcements and grades. Basic proficiency with Microsoft Office or similar software is also required.

Instructional Methods

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

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 participate in class sessions. Regular attendance and participation are essential because in-class activities contribute to the final course grade. Consistent preparation and engagement will support students' learning and overall success.

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%
Service-Learning Project	30%
Participation Assignments	15%
Final Exam	15%
Research Participation	Required; not percentage-based; one-letter-grade reduction if not completed
TOTAL	100%

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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 five in-class content exams, each consisting of 50 multiple-choice questions. A study guide will be provided before each exam. Only the four highest exam scores will count toward the final course grade. Each counted exam is worth 10%, 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. Service-Learning Project: The service-learning project requires students to apply concepts from lifespan development in a community-based setting. Students will complete an approved service-learning experience and submit a paper describing the experience, connecting it to course concepts, and reflecting on what they learned. The project and paper together account for 30% of the course grade.

4. 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.

5. 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.'

Students who choose to complete a research review paper as an alternative assignment should select an article of interest from the reference list in the course textbook and write a summary according to the assignment guidelines. Detailed instructions are available in the Research Exposure Requirement folder in D2L.

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Course Outline/Calendar

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 1: Introduction to Lifespan Development Exam 1 Chapter 1
4	9/8 9/10	Chapter 2: Heredity, Prenatal Development, and Birth Chapter 2: Heredity, Prenatal Development, and Birth
5	9/15 9/17	Chapter 3: Infancy and Toddlerhood Chapter 3: Infancy and Toddlerhood
6	9/22 9/24	Exam 2 Chapters 2-3 Service-Learning Project
7	9/29 10/1	Chapter 4: Early Childhood Chapter 4: Early Childhood
8	10/6 10/8	Chapter 5: Middle and Late Childhood Chapter 5: Middle and Late Childhood
9	10/13 10/15	Exam 3 Chapters 4-5 Chapter 6: Adolescence
10	10/20 10/22	Chapter 6: Adolescence Chapter 7: Emerging and Early Adulthood
11	10/27 10/29	Chapter 7: Emerging and Early Adulthood Exam 4 Chapters 6-7
12	11/3 11/5	Chapter 8: Middle Adulthood Chapter 8: Middle Adulthood
13	11/10 11/12	Chapter 9: Late Adulthood Chapter 9: Late Adulthood
14	11/17 11/19	Chapter 10: Death and Dying Exam 5 Chapters 8-10
15	11/24 11/26	Thanksgiving Break
16	12/1 12/3	Final Exam Review Service-Learning Project and Research Exposure Work Session
17	12/10	Cumulative Final Exam

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:

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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 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.

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>

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY 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.

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 online in the [Student Guidebook](#).

Students should also consult the [Rules of Netiquette Webpage](#) for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum.

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ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy, please view the [Attendance Webpage](#) and the [Class Attendance Policy](#)

Academic Integrity

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

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

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

Use of 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 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

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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.

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](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

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.

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