

PSY 582.01W: Cognitive Aging

Fall 2026

Location: Online

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Krueger

Office Location: Henderson 233

Office Hours: Virtual (see Zoom link in D2L) on Tuesday 10:00-12:30, Wednesday 10:00-12:30, and by appointment

Office Phone: (903) 886-5637

Office Fax: (903) 886-5510

University Email Address: lacy.krueger@etamu.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: email

Communication Response Time: Within 48 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Required Book: Powell, D. H. (2011). The Aging Intellect. New York: Routledge

*** You do NOT need to purchase Powell's book. This book is available free online through ETAMU's library.

Note: Other assigned readings (i.e., peer-reviewed articles and chapters) are located in D2L.

Course Description

This is a special topics course on cognitive aging. We will discuss cognitive processes such as processing speed, attention, different forms of memory, and decision making, and how these processes change with age. Keep in mind that the average life expectancy has increased, but individuals do not merely want to live longer; instead, they want to optimally age, which includes physical, mental, and cognitive aspects. Given the emphasis on optimal aging, we will consider factors that are associated with higher cognitive performance in late adulthood.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Course Philosophy: In all of my classes my philosophy is that courses should be both educational and interesting to students. Powell text comes from a perspective of a clinician and focuses on how to promote optimal aging, which is relevant to us all because we are all aging and have friends and family that are in the latter half of the adult lifespan. I take the glass-half-full approach to aging and consider aspects that will facilitate optimal aging. I encourage you to take this approach and see aging as an opportunity for development and action.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

1. Students will recognize trends in cognitive performance in late adulthood.
2. Students will apply content of readings to daily life.
3. Students will demonstrate how we can promote optimal aging.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Assessments

- I. Quizzes** -- Quizzes will be administered to provide an assessment of your knowledge of the assigned chapter reading for the week. These quizzes are open book/open notes, but they must be completed independently. Quizzes are timed, so you will need to prepare beforehand for them. Each student can drop one quiz grade. Quizzes are worth 20% of your course grade. (SLO 1)
- II. Types of Cognitive Ager Paper** – Powell (2011) identifies three types of cognitive agers. Through your observation, you will write an analysis to determine which type of cognitive ager you would consider a person to be categorized as. The assignment parameters are described in D2L. This paper is worth 30% of your course grade. (SLO 1 & 2)
- III. Reaction Papers** – You will be assigned empirical articles to read in Units 5 and 6. Based on these readings you will select an article to provide your reaction to and critically analyze the article. See D2L for more information. There are two reaction papers, and each are worth 10% (20% total). (SLO 2)
- IV. Final Presentation** -- You will create a presentation about optimal aging. In this presentation you will incorporate content you learned to provide tips for optimal aging; the presentation must

contain internal citations to provide evidence for claims. See D2L for more information. The website is worth 30% (SLO 2, 3).

Note: *This course is cross-listed with an undergraduate course (PSY 482). PSY 582 has masters and doctor-level students. Additional requirements will be expected for the Cognitive Ager Paper, Reaction Papers, and Final Presentation based on student level.*

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

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

Instructional Methods

The course is grouped by units. Each unit has an overview with the learning objectives for that unit.

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 assignments. Typically the units span two weeks, so be sure to get started in the first week to make sure you have time to complete the assignments. Be sure to read the overview in each of the units; students comment that these help them prepare for the quizzes.

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

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.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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 582)** in the email. Correspondence with your instructor should be professional.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Scholarly Expectations: All works submitted for credit must be original works created by the scholar uniquely for the class.

Late Work: The penalty imposed depends on the course assignment. **Quizzes:** *These must be completed on time. No late quizzes; each student gets to drop one quiz.* **Final Presentation, Reaction Papers, and Type of Cognitive Ager Paper:** If the assignment is turned in within 24 hours of the due date, a 10-point/grade step penalty will be imposed. If the assignment is turned in between 24-48 hours of the due date, a 20-point/2 grade step penalty will be imposed. If the assignment is submitted more than 48 hours late, it will automatically be scored as a zero (i.e., no credit granted). If you have an issue with uploading your website presentation, be sure to email me; that will serve as the date/time stamp.

****** If you have an extenuating circumstance (e.g., emergency) be sure to contact me to discuss whether penalties can be waived and/or extensions granted based on documentation. If you experience an issue with the D2L, be sure to contact Brightspace (see above), and be sure to request an email ticket to show to me for documentation.

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.

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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>

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:

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 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 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

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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](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.

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COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

GETTING STARTED

August 20 – 23: Getting Started

Reading: Syllabus

Assignment: Optional Discussion Post for Extra Credit

OVERVIEW & TYPES COGNITIVE AGERS

UNIT 1

August 24 – September 6

Readings:

- Powell Introduction
- Powell Ch. 1
- Instructor Assigned Articles (Instructor will post links in D2L)

Assignment:

- Quiz

UNIT 2

September 7 – September 20: Physical Aspects of Cognitive Aging

Readings:

- Powell Ch. 2
- Powell Ch. 3
- Instructor Assigned Articles (Instructor will post links in D2L)

Assignment:

- Quiz

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UNIT 3:

September 21 – October 4: Lifestyle Habits & Actions

Readings:

- Powell Ch. 4
- Powell Ch. 5
- Instructor Assigned Articles (Instructor will post links in D2L)

Assignment:

- Quiz

UNIT 4

October 5 – October 7 and October 12 – October 18: Types of Cognitive Agers: Optimal, Normal, & High-Risk (Note: Fall break is October 8 – October 11)

Readings:

- Powell Ch. 6
- Powell Ch. 7
- Powell Ch. 8

Assignments:

- Quiz
- Type of Cognitive Ager Paper

SPECIFIC COGNITIVE PROCESSES

UNIT 5

October 19 – November 1: Memory Trends

Readings:

- Instructor Assigned Articles (Instructor will post links in D2L)

Assignments:

- Quiz
- Reaction paper

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UNIT 6

November 2 – November 15: Attention, Decision, & Language

Readings:

- Instructor Assigned Articles (Instructor will post links in D2L)

Assignments:

- Quiz
- Reaction paper

APPLICATION

UNIT 7

November 16 – November 25: Application

Readings:

- Powell Ch. 9
- Presentation Guidelines Posted by Instructor

Assignment:

- Final assignment check in due by 11/25 at 11:59 pm (Note: This due date is a bit earlier than our normal two-week timespan because of Thanksgiving break from November 26 – November 29).

UNIT 8

November 30 – December 6: Culmination

Reading:

- No new assigned readings. Be sure to be reviewing previous readings to incorporate into your final presentation

Assignment:

- Final presentation due by 11:59 pm on 12/6