

PSY 220.750

Introduction to Lifespan Developmental Psychology
College of Education and Behavioral Sciences
Psychology Department
Western Kentucky University
Spring 2021

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Office hours: Office Hours will be conducted via Zoom to ensure social distancing and safety. Please email if you would like to meet and we will arrange a meeting for time that works for both of our schedules.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: A general course in developmental psychology covering the entire lifespan. Included are a description of growth stages, theories of development, and research methods of development. This is a 3 credit hour course.

TEXTBOOK REQUIRED: Kuther, T.L. (2020). *Lifespan Development: Lives in Context* (2nd Edition). Sage Publications. ISBN # 9781544332284

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the developing person at different periods in the lifespan, from conception to death.
2. Describe development – including physical, cognitive, and socioemotional – as an ongoing set of processes, which involved continuity and change.
3. Explain different theoretical perspectives of development, and how they are used for research and application purposes.
4. Explain how research contributes to the understanding of development.
5. Describe objective techniques and skills for understanding human behavior.
6. Recall important developmental concepts and be able to recognize and apply these concepts in varying situations.
7. Describe how social and cultural factors affect individual development, and recognize similarities and differences between people of all ages, cultures and backgrounds.
8. Engage in critical review, discussion, reflection, and synthesis of all considered course topics.
9. Utilize technology to enhance access to resources, class information, and interaction.

FORMAT OF THE COURSE: This course will be completely online through blackboard. Computer and internet access (high speed recommended) are required. Your web browser should be within 1-2 years of the current browser. This course requires frequent use of Blackboard. Blackboard works very well with Firefox and Chrome. You can download this browser free for both WIN and Mac from the Blackboard home page. Please note that I am not an expert in technology issues and will not be able to provide support with technological issues. If you have any technical issues please contact WKU's IT support at <https://www.wku.edu/it/helpdesk/> or 270-745-7000. To save yourself stress, do not procrastinate.

Course Content: Your primary source of course content will be the textbook. I will provide supplements to the textbook in the form of PowerPoint's, lecture notes, etc. This course is designed to be self-paced. As such, it will require a commitment on the part of the student to manage their time and be aware of course deadlines

Being “Online”- The nature of this class:**Using Blackboard**

This class will be presented through “Blackboard,” which is the name of the website you will use to access materials, turn in assignments, participate in discussions, and take exams. To access Blackboard:

1. Go to www.wku.edu
2. In the lower left corner, you will see links to various sites, one of which is Blackboard. Click the word “Blackboard.”
3. You will be required to login using your WKU username and WKU e-mail password (what you use to access your WKU Topper e-mail and WKU Portal).
4. After logging in, on the right-hand side of the screen, you will see the course name underlined, Introduction to Psychology. Click on the course name.
5. Now you will see a screen that will have any current announcements in the center. To the left will be a list of menu items on white buttons, such as “Chapter Notes,” “Discussion Board” etc. Click on these, depending on what you want to do.

In general, I will communicate with the class through Announcements. However, if I need to contact an individual student, I will use e-mail. I count on you to check your WKU e-mail at least daily during the week. To protect your confidentiality, I will not respond to non-WKU emails (e.g., Gmail, Hotmail), so please email me from your WKU address. I will check my email at least twice a day—usually throughout the day during the week. You can expect me to reply to your email within 24 hours, with the exception being during the weekends.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Exams – Three exams will be used to assess your acquisition and knowledge of course content. In addition to multiple-choice questions, the exams may also contain a few short answer and essay questions to address your conceptual understanding and application of the material. Your total test points will account up to 300 points toward your overall course grade. The tests will be accessed through Blackboard in the “Test & Quizzes” section. You will have 2 hours for each exam and they are forced completion. Please make sure that you have a quiet space and the time to complete an exam before you begin one. Exams must be submitted by 11:59pm; due dates are provided below. Make sure to allow for sufficient time to take each exam.

Quizzes – There will be 19 quizzes, one for each chapter, throughout the semester and only the 15 highest quiz scores will count towards the final grade. Each quiz will be worth 10 points. The quizzes will be accessed through Blackboard in the “Test & Quizzes” section. These are not timed and are not forced completion. Quizzes must be submitted by Saturday @ 11:59pm; due dates are provided below. As I drop your five lowest quiz scores and you can work ahead, no exceptions will be made for emergencies, etc. Make sure to note that some weeks two quizzes will be available

Reflection papers – This course is comprised into 6 units. A reflection paper may be completed for each unit (i.e., 6 total reflection papers). You are to complete 5 reflection papers. As such, you may skip writing a reflection paper for 1 unit. Your overall reflection paper point totals will account up to 150 points toward your overall course grade. Reflection papers are to be posted on Blackboard at its corresponding link under the “Assignments” tab. In writing your reflection paper, you are to respond to the following questions, “What are the three most important things that you have learned from this unit? How do you think you will use and apply these three things you have learned?” Each reflection paper should be 2-3 pages, double spaced, 12 point font. All submissions must be word documents and must not go over the page limit.

Each reflection paper will be assigned a point amount of 30, 22.5, or 15 (i.e., 30 = standard is met: effective consideration in paper; content is accurately addressed and paper is well organized. 22.5 = standard is mostly met though there are some issues: adequate consideration in paper; content is mostly accurate though there are some inaccuracies and/or the paper is not well organized and hard to follow. 15 = standard is not met; the content in your paper is inaccurate, largely conjecture, and there is little evidence that you considered your textbook or class discussion in your paper). I may also assign papers amounts of a 26.25 or 18.75 for those papers that are not quite at the 30 or 26.25 levels.

Unit	Topics	Chapters
1	Foundations of Lifespan Human Development - Understanding Human Development - Biological and Environmental Foundations - The Prenatal Period, Birth, and the Newborn	1 2 3
2	Infancy and Toddlerhood - Physical Development - Cognitive Development - Socioemotional Development	4 5 6
3	Childhood - Physical and Cognitive Development - Socioemotional Development	7, 8 9, 10
4	Adolescence - Physical and Cognitive Development - Socioemotional Development	11, 12
5	Early Adulthood - Physical and Cognitive Development - Socioemotional Development	13 14
6	Middle and Late Adulthood - Physical and Cognitive Development - Socioemotional Development Endings - Death and Dying	15,16 17,18 19

Discussion questions – This course covers 19 chapters. You are to complete 1 discussion board post for 10 of the Chapters. As such, you may skip writing a post for 9 chapters. Your overall discussion question point totals will account up to 150 points toward your overall course grade

Discussion questions will be posted on Blackboard under the “Discussions” tab. For a post to be counted you will be required to make a minimum of three contributions for 10 of the chapters (one post of your own and two replies to other posts). These responses should be substantive, showing that you have read the chapter and have thought about the material. Your personal opinion of the topic, without supporting evidence, is not acceptable. The topic for each chapter will be predetermined questions listed in the description of the discussion board post. Each discussion board post is worth 15 points. You will receive 7 points for your individual answer of the discussion question, and 4 points for each for the two replies on other posts.

<u>Course Grading</u>	<u>Approximate # of Points</u>
Exams:	300
Quizzes:	150
Reflection Papers:	150
Discussion Questions:	150
TOTAL:	750

COURSE EVALUATION PROCEDURES:

Grades are assigned at the end of the course on the following scale:

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
< 59%	F

COURSE POLICIES & EXPECTATIONS:

Professionalism: As pre-professionals, you are expected to display exemplary levels of professionalism while developing your skills and expertise at WKU. Therefore, it is expected that you follow the **Code of Conduct** outlined in the *WKU Student Handbook* (<http://wku.edu/judicialaffairs/student-code-of-conduct.php>) and any additional course policies for classroom conduct announced by your instructor.

Due Dates and Late Assignments: I appreciate students who work diligently and adhere to course deadlines. There will be no make-up quizzes, papers, or exams.

Academic Dishonesty: Under no circumstances will acts of academic dishonesty be tolerated in this course. Dishonesty is a direct violation of the Code of Conduct. Anyone committing such acts will result in a failing grade -- either in that portion of the course or in the course itself. Determination of the punishment will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Plagiarism detection software will be used in this course.

What is plagiarism? According to the publication manual of the American Psychological Association (2019), plagiarism is “claim[ing] the words and ideas of another as [your] own” (p. 15) or presenting your own previously written work as new scholarship (self-plagiarism).

Weather/Class Cancellation Policy: In the event that the university cancels classes for snow or inclement weather, students are expected to continue with readings as originally scheduled.

Disability accommodations: In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, 1074. SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email at sarc.connect@wku.edu. Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

Student Resources:

- [The Learning Center \(http://www.wku.edu/tlc/\)](http://www.wku.edu/tlc/) -- Student Success Center, Downing Student Union, A330.
- [The Writing Center \(http://www.wku.edu/writingcenter/\)](http://www.wku.edu/writingcenter/) -- Cherry Hall, 123 (primary location).

- The Literacy Center (<http://www.wku.edu/literacycenter/>) – Gary Ransdell Hall, 2066.actice.

Written Work:

- Follow the rules outlined by the American Psychological Association (7th edition) Manual.
- Proofread all written work prior to submission as quality matters.
- All assignments are due by class time unless otherwise noted by instructor. No late work will be accepted unless appropriate documentation is presented.

EMAIL EXPECTATIONS: Please follow the following rules:

- **SUBJECT LINE: “PSY 220”**
- GREETING: Use formal names (e.g., “Ms. Turner”)
- **Message clearly articulated and well-written**
- MANNERS= “Please” and “Thank you”
- SALUTATION: “Sincerely” “Thank you”

NOTE: If the answer can be found in the materials provided to you, you will be directed there. Look first!

Title IX Misconduct/Assault Statement: Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU’s Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070) at <https://wku.edu/eoo/documents/titleix/wkutitleixpolicyandgrievanceprocedure.pdf> and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040) at https://wku.edu/policies/hr_policies/2040_discrimination_harassment_policy.pdf.

Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121.

Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are “Responsible Employees” of the University and **MUST** report what you share to WKU’s Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU’s Counseling and Testing Center at 270-745-3159.

FAQ

Q: Can I work ahead?

A: Yes, you can work ahead with one exception. You are required to keep up with the discussion board each week. You may not post ahead of the Monday of the topic week.

Q: Exams are due on Saturday, but I use Saturday as a day to (have fun, relax, worship, etc.). Can I take the exam on Friday?

A: Yes. As mentioned earlier, you can work ahead in each section. I make the due dates on Saturday for those who need the extra time. I highly encourage taking the weekend off for those who are able to do so and still complete their work.

Course Outline**

**** NOTE:** This is a preliminary schedule. The assignment due dates are subject to change.

Week	Date	Topic/Readings	Due Saturday by 11:59
1	1/19	Chapter 1 - Understanding Human Development: Approaches and Theories	Quiz Chapter 1
2	1/25	Chapter 2 – Biological and Environmental Foundations	Quiz Chapter 2
3	2/1	Chapter 3 – The Prenatal Period, Birth, and the Newborn	Quiz Chapter 3 Reflection Paper 1
4	2/8	Chapter 4 – Physical Development in Infancy and Toddlerhood	Quiz Chapter 4
5	2/15	Chapter 5 – Cognitive Development in Infancy and Toddlerhood	Quiz Chapter 5
6	2/22	Chapter 6 – Socioemotional development in Infancy and Toddlerhood	Quiz Chapter 6 Reflection Paper 2
	2/27	Exam 1: Chapters 1-6	
7	3/1	Chapter 7 – Physical and Cognitive Development in Early Childhood Chapter 8 – Socioemotional Development in Early Childhood	Quiz Chapter 7 Quiz Chapter 8
8	3/8	Chapter 9 – Physical and Cognitive Development in Middle Childhood Chapter 10 – Socioemotional Development in Middle Childhood	Quiz Chapter 9 Quiz Chapter 10 Reflection Paper 3
9	3/15	Chapter 11 – Physical and Cognitive Development in Adolescence	Quiz Chapter 11
10	3/22	Chapter 12 – Socioemotional Development in Adolescence	Quiz Chapter 12 Reflection Paper 4
	3/27	Exam 2: Chapters 7-8	
11	3/29	Chapter 13 – Physical and Cognitive Development in Emerging and Early Adulthood Chapter 14 - Socioemotional Development in Emerging and Early Adulthood	Quiz Chapter 13 Quiz Chapter 14 Reflection Paper 5
12	4/5	Chapter 15 – Physical and Cognitive Development in Middle Adulthood Chapter 16 – Socioemotional Development in Middle Adulthood	Quiz Chapter 15 Quiz Chapter 16
13	4/12	Chapter 17 - Physical and Cognitive Development in Late Adulthood Chapter 18 - Socioemotional Development in Late Adulthood	Quiz Chapter 17 Quiz Chapter 18
14	4/19	Chapter 19 – Death and Dying	Quiz Chapter 19 Reflection Paper 6
15	4/26	Final – Exam 3: Chapters 13-19	

Additional in-class or out-of-class activities may be assigned. Be prepared to add them to your calendar.