

Lifespan Developmental Psychology

PSY 2510:002

Spring 2020

Course Prerequisites

PSY 1010 – Principles of Psychology

Meeting Times

Location: HH 1500

Day/Time: Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:10AM – 12:30AM

Instructor Information

Instructor: Christina O. Perez, M.A.

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Office: University Hall 1880A

Office Hours: Mondays 1:00PM – 3:00PM; or by appointment

Teaching Assistant

Allison Fisher (Allison.Fisher@rockets.utoledo.edu)

Course Catalog Description

Emphasizes research and theory from conception through old age, and integrates important developmental issues within a lifespan approach.

Course Overview

In this broad-based and fast-paced Web-assisted course, we take a life-span approach to human developmental patterns and processes from conception to death, across cultures and development. In particular, we will discuss the basic physical, cognitive, and social processes at work during each age period (e.g., infancy, childhood, adolescence, and adulthood); external influences affecting these processes; and the relationships among the various threads of development in each age period. This course will provide opportunities for you to draw on your own experiences as you weigh research and ideas we come across. This course should also help you to relate knowledge about how humans develop not only to careers in psychology, but also to many others such as teaching, nursing, medicine, social work, education, law enforcement, and parenthood.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Assess the biological, cognitive, and cultural influences on development throughout the lifespan.
2. Evaluate current and past research in the study of the lifespan guided by theories within developmental psychology.
3. Apply developmental psychology principles to daily life throughout the lifespan.
4. Detect myths and misconceptions regarding human development throughout the lifespan.
5. Describe methodological approaches used to study development.
6. Assess and critically analyze theories, research methodology and findings (outcomes), and applications developed by developmental psychologists and made available through diverse media (e.g., textbooks, newspapers, professional and lay periodicals, and the Internet).
7. Seize opportunities to engage in clear thinking and clear writing without the use of electronic devices.
8. Demonstrate ability to engage in class discussions and efficiently complete exams/other assignments.

Textbook:

Feldman, R. S. (2017). *Life Span Development: A Topical Approach* (3rd. Ed.). Pearson. ISBN: 9780134225906

Technology Requirements:

You will need reliable, high-speed Internet and access to a computer. We will regularly be using two online components for this course.

1. The first is our Blackboard course website (<https://blackboard.utdl.edu>). Course materials will be posted on Blackboard. Course announcements and student grades will be posted to this site as well.
2. The second online component is Top Hat (www.tophat.com). We will be using the Top Hat classroom response system in class for attendance and participation. **We will begin using Top Hat on our second class. (01/27/2020).** You will be able to submit answers to in-class questions using Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, laptops, or through text message. You can visit the Top Hat Overview (<https://success.tophat.com/s/article/Student-Top-Hat-Overview-and-Getting-Started-Guide>) within the Top Hat Success Center which outlines how you will register for a Top Hat account, as well as providing a brief overview to get you up and running on the system.

An invitation will be sent to you by email, but if you don't receive this email, you can register by simply visiting our course website: <https://app.tophat.com/e/051845>

Note: our Course Join Code is 051845. Please **use your UT email address** when registering for Top Hat.

Top Hat will require a paid subscription, and a full breakdown of all subscription options available can be found here: www.tophat.com/pricing.

Should you require assistance with Top Hat at any time, due to the fact that they require specific user information to troubleshoot these issues, please contact their Support Team directly by way of email (support@tophat.com), the in app support button, or by calling 1-888-663-5491.

Communication with the Instructor

The best way to reach me is through email. I typically respond as quickly as I can within business hours Monday-Friday. If you prefer to talk face-to-face feel, free to stop by during my office hours or email me to set up an appointment to come by at a time that would work better for you.

Before you e-mail me, double check the syllabus. If your question is addressed somewhere therein, I will not respond to your email. If this policy is continually broken, I will begin deducting points from assignments if you email me about answers you can find in the syllabus. (Please use the same guidelines to contact your TAs). I typically respond within 24 hours during business days – keep in mind this may not be until the next day.

Emails to the instructor and TAs should be professionally written. In your first email about a topic to me or the TAs, you should include a greeting (e.g., “Hello Ms. Perez/Professor P./Christina”), a succinct message (*Use spell check! And please no text abbreviations such as ‘how r u?’*), and an ending (e.g., “thank you,” “sincerely,” etc.), followed by your name. **If your email is not professional and does not follow this basic format, I will not respond.**

In-Class Policies

The following in-class policies will be implemented to ensure lectures are beneficial learning environments for all students. All students should aim to be respectful to the instructor, the TAs, and other students in this course.

1. **Technology use in class.** Cell phones, laptops, and other electronics should only be used for participating in Top Hat attendance/questions, and note taking. Cell phones should be on vibrate or silent during class time. If you receive an emergency call, please leave the room quietly to take the phone call. Inappropriate electronics activity includes (but is not limited to): texting, Facebook, shopping, emailing, listening to music, watching videos, etc. Students who engage in excessive inappropriate electronic activities will be asked to leave class and will not receive attendance points for that day's lecture.
2. **Eating in class.** Eating in class is fine with me as long as it does not create a major distraction. If your food is distracting me or other students, I will ask you to please put it away. Note: if you bring a drink to class, be careful not to place it somewhere where it may be knocked over on to the floor or other students.
3. **Sleeping in class.** Sleeping in class is not tolerated. Students who are sleeping in class will be asked to leave and will not receive attendance points for that day's lecture.
4. **Talking during lectures.** During lectures, side conversations between students will not be tolerated. These conversations are highly distracting for both the instructor and other students. Students talking during lectures will be asked to refrain from talking until class is over. If this behavior continues, those students will be asked leave class and will not receive attendance points for that day's lecture.
5. **Miscellaneous.** The following are various policies will also be enforced throughout this course.
 - Don't wear headphones during class.
 - Don't engage in distracting grooming (e.g., nail/toenail clipping, hair brushing, etc.)
 - Be respectful of other students in the class.
 - Do not take pictures of me/the slides unless I give you explicit permission.
 - Do not record (audio or video) my lectures.
 - If you need to leave class, please do so quietly and discretely.

Course Requirements

Students will be graded on the following assignments:

- Attendance & Participation
- Exams

Attendance & Participation (35 points)

Attendance and participation are a required part of this class, and will count toward your final grade. Attendance and participation will be graded through Top Hat. You must have Top Hat in order to receive these points. Each day you come to class I will take attendance via a code you enter on Top Hat using your phone, tablet, or computer. You will earn one point for each class you attend. I will also pose questions throughout the lecture to help gauge your understanding and/or thoughts. Some of these questions will be worth an additional 1 point and will contribute to your attendance and participation points. Your attendance and participation grade will be calculated by adding the total number of points earned on in class questions, and one point for each attended class. These points will be added onto your final grade.

Mental Health Days: Sometimes things come up or you need to take some time for yourself. I've arranged the course so I will provide opportunities to earn more than the maximum 35 points worth of attendance and participation. So, that means if you need to take a day or two to miss class and take care of yourself you should do that without having to worry too much about your attendance grade. **You can feel free to take a mental health day at your own discretion, no need to email me beforehand to let me know you'll be missing class or tell me a reason.**

Class cancellations: Although it is unlikely that a lecture will be cancelled it is always a possibility. If something does happen where I need to cancel class, I will send an email to your UT Rockets email address.

Exams (400 points)

There will be a total of 5 exams in this course. Your lowest exam grade will be dropped. Each exam is worth 100 points, for a total of 400 points. Exams will consist of 50 multiple choice questions worth 2 points each. Exam questions will come from lectures, in class discussions, the book chapters, and any other outside material assigned (like videos). ***Late exams will not be accepted under any circumstances.*** If you anticipate missing an exam, please make arrangements to take it early. Exams will be completed in class. You will have the full class time to complete the exam.

You may not use any books, notes, or any other outside resources (including Google) on exams. You also may not consult with friends or peers for the answers. Anyone suspected of cheating will earn a 0 on the exam and a note in your college file for the first offense. A student caught cheating a second time will receive an F in the course, and a note in your college file. The course instructor, TAs, or anyone else monitoring the exam will determine if cheating is suspected. ***Any grade of 0 that results from cheating is not eligible to be the exam grade that is dropped.***

Grading

Assignment	Points
Attendance & Participation	35
Exams (Best 4 out of 5 grades)	400
Total	435

You can calculate your final grade by dividing the points you have earned by 435 (remember to subtract your lowest exam score). For example, if you have earned 402 points in the class, $402/435 = 0.92$ or 92% which is an A-.

Letter Grades:

A	> 93 %	C	73-76%
A-	90-92 %	C-	70-72%
B+	87-89%	D+	67-69%
B	83-86%	D	63-66%
B-	80-82%	D-	60-62%
C+	77-79%	F	< 60%

Week	Date	Topic/Activity	Readings
Unit One			
1	1/20	Martin Luther King Jr. Day – No Class	CH 1
	1/22	Syllabus; Introducing Lifespan Development	
2	1/27	Introducing Lifespan Development	
	1/29	Genetics, Prenatal Development, and Birth	CH 2
3	2/3	Physical Growth and Aging Across the Lifespan	CH 3
Unit Two			
	2/5	Health and Wellness	CH 4
4	2/10	Exam 1	
	2/12	Cognitive Growth: Piaget and Vygotsky	CH 5
5	2/17	Cognitive Growth: Information Processing	CH 6
Unit Three			
	2/19	Language	CH 7
6	2/24	Exam 2	
	2/26	Intelligence	CH 8
7	3/2	Social and Emotional Development	CH 9
	3/4	AP-LS Conference – No Class	
8	3/9	Spring Break – No Class	
	3/11	Spring Break – No Class	
Unit Four			
9	3/16	Social and Emotional Development	
	3/18	Exam 3	
10	3/23	Development of the Self	CH 10
	3/25	Moral Development and Aggression	CH 11
11	3/30	Gender and Sexuality	CH 12
	4/1	Gender and Sexuality	
12	4/6	Exam 4	
Unit Five			
	4/8	Friends and Family	CH 13
13	4/13	Friends and Family	
	4/15	Schooling, Culture, and Society: Living in a Multicultural World	CH 14
14	4/20	Schooling, Culture, and Society: Living in a Multicultural World	
	4/22	Death and Dying	CH 15
15	4/27	Exam 5	
	4/29	No Class	

THE SYLLABUS AND COURSE POLICIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT THE INSTRUCTOR'S DISCRETION. CHANGES WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN CLASS OR VIA BLACKBOARD. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL CLASS ANNOUNCEMENTS.