

## Common Course Syllabus

**Department:** Behavioral Sciences

**Discipline:** Psychology

**Course Number:** PSYC 2314

**Course Name:** Lifespan Growth and Development

**Credit:** 3 Lecture: 3 Lab: 0

**Satisfies a core curriculum requirement?** Yes, Behavioral or Social Science

**Prerequisites:** TSI reading compliance for INET

**Available Formats:** conventional; INET; ITV

**Campuses:** Levelland, Reese, ATC, Plainview, INET

**Textbook:** *Human Development: A Cultural Approach, 2e* by Jeffrey Jensen Arnett

**Course Specific Instructions:** go to Blackboard Learn 9 for INET classes

**Course Description:** This course is a study of the relationship of the physical, emotional, social, and mental factors of growth and development of children and throughout the lifespan.

**Course Purpose:** The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the major theories and concepts in life span development including the physical, cognitive, and psychosocial changes that occur from conception till death.

**Course Requirements:** To maximize the potential to successfully complete this course, the student should attend all class meetings, complete all homework assignments in a timely manner, and complete all examinations including the final exam. Internet courses require the work to be completed in specific time periods.

**Course Evaluation:** Please see the instructor's course information sheet for specific items used in evaluation student performance.

**Attendance Policy:** Whenever absences become excessive, and in the instructor's opinion, minimum course objectives cannot be met due to absences, the student may be withdrawn from the course. The typical view of excessive absences is when a student misses more than two weeks of the course.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Students who have successfully completed this course will be expected to:

1. Describe the stages of the developing person at different periods of the life span from birth to death.
2. Discuss the social, political, economic, and cultural forces that affect the development process of the individual.
3. Identify factors of responsible personal behavior with regard to issues such as sexual activity, substance abuse, marriage and parenting.
4. Explain the biosocial, cognitive and psychological influences throughout the lifespan as an ongoing set of processes, involving both continuity and change.
5. Describe the different developmental perspectives of the major theories of development (i.e. cognitive, learning, humanistic and psychodynamic).
6. Identify examples of some of the cultural and ethnic differences that influence development throughout the lifespan.
7. Discuss the various causes or reasons for disturbances in the developmental process.

**Core Objectives addressed:**

- **Communication skills-** to include effective written, oral and visual communication.
- **Critical thinking skills-** to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- **Empirical and Quantitative skills-** to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.
- **Social Responsibility-** to include the demonstrated intercultural knowledge and competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national and global communities.

**Coordinating Board Approval Number (CIP) 42.2703.51 25**

# Specific Course Policies

## Contacting the Instructor

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Name Dr. Will Crescioni

Office Location RC405A, Reese Campus

<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:wcrescioni@southplainscollege.edu">wcrescioni@southplainscollege.edu</a>				
<b>Office Phone</b>	(806) 716-2468				
<b>Office Hours</b>	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1:00 – 3:00	1:00 – 3:00	N/A	1:00 – 3:00	9:00 – 11:00
Additional office hours available by appointment.					

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## The Course at a glance

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### Grading

- 500 total points
- Four unit tests and one final exam worth 100 points each
  - The lowest of these five tests will be dropped
- One book report worth 100 points
- Grade based on total points earned by the end of the semester
- No individual extra credits assignments
- No artificial grade boosts

### Tests

- Each test is 50 multiple choice questions
- Unit tests are non-cumulative; each test covers only the material covered since the previous test
- Final exam is cumulative; this test covers all material previously covered in the course

## Test dates

- Test 1: September 26<sup>th</sup>
- Test 2: October 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Test 3: November 12<sup>th</sup>
- Test 4: December 5<sup>th</sup>

## Book Report

- Worth 100 points
- The book report is due November 5<sup>th</sup> by 11:59 PM
- Based on book from the provided list
- 3 – 5 pages in length
- Graded for spelling, grammar, and punctuation; following directions; and overall paper quality
- Late papers lose 25 points per day

## Student e-mail

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SPC has given all students access to a free email account. Email will be the primary means of communication in this course, and I expect you to check it regularly. **ALL EMAIL COMMUNICATION MUST BE CONDUCTED USING YOUR OFFICIAL SPC EMAIL.**

## Email Etiquette

It is important in this class, in all classes, and in your professional life to practice good email etiquette. This means, among other things, addressing your instructors professionally, using good spelling and grammar, and practicing good self-reliance before falling back on email. There are many excellent guides to email etiquette, but I recommend this as a starting point:

[http://writingcenter.emory.edu/resources/writing\\_tips\\_resources/email\\_etiquette.html](http://writingcenter.emory.edu/resources/writing_tips_resources/email_etiquette.html)

In addition, all emails must include a meaningful subject line, must include the class and section you are referencing, and must include your full name as it appears on Blackboard. I teach multiple classes at SPC, as well as classes at other colleges in the area. If you do not clearly identify yourself and the class you are asking about, I have no way of answering your question. For example, an email that simply reads “When is the test?” is useless. Which test? For which class? My general class? My lifespan class? The experimental class I teach at LCU? Therefore, if you do not provide the information I need to help you, you will not get help. Here is an example of a well-composed email:

Hello Dr. Crescioni,

My name is Student McStudentson, and I am in your PSY 2301 MW class at 1:00. I was looking at the syllabus and it said that our second test was next Monday, but I thought I remembered you saying in class that it had been delayed until Wednesday. If you could let me know for sure I'd really appreciate it.

Thanks,  
Student McStudentson

That email will get a quick response.

## Course Expectations

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### Attendance

Class roll will be taken during each class meeting and a record of attendance will be maintained. You will be responsible for the material presented in class as well as the assigned material from the textbook. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to contact one of your fellow students for notes from that class period. Make-ups for exams will not be given except in cases of documented personal illness or injury, serious illness or injury of a family member, death in the family, or approved college-sponsored events (e.g. athletics). Appropriate documentation will ALWAYS be required before a makeup will be scheduled. Examples of appropriate documentation include a doctor's note if you are sick or injured, a letter from a parent or guardian if a family member is seriously ill, or an obituary in the case of a death in the family. Reasons other than those expressly listed above are not considered valid excuses for missing class, and make up work will not be given for these reasons.

### Administrative Drop Policy

Due to Financial Aid and South Plains College requirements for participation/attendance, students who fail to maintain satisfactory course participation may be dropped with a grade of "X" from the course. **A student who meets any of the following criteria may be dropped from the course at the discretion of the instructor:**

- **Having a current grade of "C" or lower plus any one of the following:**
  - **Missing five or more days of class without excused absences.**
  - **Missing two or more tests.**
  - **Failing to turn in the book report rough draft.**
  - **Failing to turn in the book report final draft.**

### Tardiness

Being late does not constitute being absent but it is very disruptive and rude to come to class late so allow enough time in your schedule to arrive a few minutes early to class. If you do arrive late, quietly take the seat closest to the entrance. Also, it is your responsibility to sign the roll sheet or you will be counted absent. This is IMPORTANT! **Note:** On test days, you will not be allowed to start the test if you arrive after the first test has been turned in.

## Civility

Psychology covers a broad range of topics, and through the discussion in this class a variety of different viewpoints may be expressed. I expect you to be civil, courteous, and tolerant to both your fellow students and to me at all times during this class. Although debate is a natural and healthy part of the learning process, your disagreement with my or another student's expressed views is never justification to attack, belittle, or demean that person. Keep all discourse civil and focused on the issues. Never insult or intimidate me or a fellow student. It is also expected that your conduct will not interfere with the ability of other students in the class to learn. You cell phone should be on silent when you enter class, and under no circumstances should you in any way interact with your phone once class has begun. Do not speak to fellow students during class – if you have a question or would like me to repeat something, simply raise your hand and ask. While I encourage the use of technology to enhance learning in the classroom (e.g. the use of laptops to take notes), I expect that you will not abuse this privilege by checking Facebook, updating your fantasy football team, playing World of Warcraft, or otherwise engaging in activities that could distract those sitting around you. If at any time I feel that our behavior is disrupting the classroom environment, I reserve the right to have you remove yourself from the class. Should this occur, you will not be given the opportunity to make-up missed work and you will be responsible for obtaining notes for any material you missed.

## Assignments

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### Tests

(4 @ 100 points each): There will be four unit tests and one comprehensive final exam in this course. Each test is worth 100 points. I will drop your lowest test score when computing your final grade. Makeups for missed exams may be offered in cases of documented personal injury or illness, serious injury or illness of a family member, death in the family, or college sponsored events (e.g. sports).

Be sure to consult the exam schedule and inform me **in advance** if you know that you will be unable to attend an exam session due to an approved absence. All other absences (including but not limited to: oversleeping, car/transportation trouble, work, vacation, friends' wedding, your wedding, etc.) are not excused, and makeups will not be offered.

You must arrive to class **on-time** in order to take the exam. If you arrive after the first exam has been turned in, you will not be allowed to take the exam.

### Test Dates

Test dates will only be changed under the following circumstances:

- South Plains College Reese campus is closed
- I am unable to come to class, and I am unable to find a proctor to administer the test in my absence

Should either of the above occur, I will contact you as soon as possible with a new test date.

Tests will not be canceled or delayed due to failure to keep pace with the scheduled material. Should we fail to cover all scheduled material prior to a test, then that test will cover only the material that we did

cover. Any material not covered will be shifted to the next test. It is important that you attend to class regularly to ensure you know what material will be covered on each test.

## Missed Tests

At the end of the semester, I will drop your lowest test grade. If you miss any ONE test for any reason (undocumented illness or injury, car trouble, getting called into work, family emergency, Doctor Who marathon, etc.), the resulting zero will be dropped from your grade calculation.

If you take all four of the unit tests, then you may use the drop policy to exempt yourself from the final exam. In other words, if you have taken all four regular semester tests, then you may skip the final.

You may also choose to take all five tests (the four unit tests and the final exam). If you do so, then I will drop the lowest grade from among these five from your final grade calculation. For example, if your five test grades were 78, 67, 84, 89, and a 91 on the final exam, the “67” would not be counted in your final grade calculation.

## Makeups

Makeups will be given only with documentation, and only under the following circumstances:

- Mandatory, college-sponsored activity (e.g. basketball game)
  - Acceptable documentation: email from coach or faculty member
- Personal injury or illness
  - Acceptable documentation: doctor’s note
- Illness or injury of child
  - Acceptable documentation: doctor’s note
- Death of a loved one within one week of the test date
  - Acceptable documentation: obituary, funeral program

The following list includes some absences that would not qualify for a makeup, even with documentation. Note that this list is not exhaustive.

- Family emergency
- Family vacation
- Lack of childcare
- Work
- Car trouble
- Wedding (yours or someone else’s)
- Scheduled elective medical procedures
- Non-emergency dental care

One missed test for which the student cannot provide documentation of an approved absence can be dropped using the dropped policy. Additional missed tests will count against the student’s final grade and may result in administrative drop.

## Scheduling a makeup

All makeups must be scheduled through the “Schedule a Makeup” list on Blackboard. You will be prompted to select the reason you are requesting a makeup and, if your reason is approved, you will be given the option to choose a date and time for your makeup.

Makeups must be scheduled for within one week of the missed test. So, for example, if you missed a test scheduled for September 24<sup>th</sup>, you would have until October first to take the makeup. After that time, it would no longer be possible to schedule a makeup.

Proper documentation must be provided via email prior to the date of your makeup or in person at the time of your makeup. If documentation is not provided, if the documentation provided is invalid, or if you fail to arrive within 15 minutes of your scheduled makeup, your makeup will be canceled. Canceled makeups cannot be rescheduled.

I will only reschedule your makeup in the event of my own illness or injury, an illness or injury for my daughter, a mandatory college event (e.g. faculty meeting), or the loss of a loved one (the same criteria I apply to you). Should I have to reschedule your makeup, I will contact you as soon as possible and we will work together to find a new time.

## Book Report

*Due November 14<sup>th</sup> by 11:59 PM*

(100 points)

You will select one book from the following list to read during the semester. At approximately the midpoint of the semester, you will submit a rough draft of your report. Toward the end of the semester, you will submit your final draft.

## Book Choices

Choose one of the following books for your book report:

- *Brain Rules for Baby*, by John Medina
- *Brain Rules*, by John Medina
- *Popular*, by Mitch Prinstein
- *The Teenage Brain*, by Frances E. Jensen
- *Make it Stick: The Science of Successful Learning*, by Peter C. Brown, Henry L. Roediger III, and Henry L. Roediger III
- *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success*, by Carol Dweck

You will then write a 3 – 5 page double spaced document that addresses the following points:

1. What is the main idea of the book? Summarize, in a few paragraphs, the main points the book makes.
2. Select one study or example from the book and explain it in detail. Why do you think this study or example is important?
3. What is one thing you learned from this book that you think you could incorporate into your own life?
4. What is one thing you learned in this book that you think everyone should know? Why?

Detailed instructions and an assignment rubric will be made available via Blackboard.



# Make-ups and Late Work

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## Exams

Individual make-ups will only be offered in cases of documented illness, injury, death in the family, or university sponsored events. Vacations, family trips, weddings, etc. **are not** considered excused absences.

## Book Report

Your research paper deadline is inflexible. Late papers will only be accepted in the event that a serious illness or injury prevented you from being able to turn the paper in on the due date.

## Grading

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Your grade in this class will be based entirely on your Exams and Research Paper. Extra credit may be offered to the entire class at the instructor's discretion, but individual extra credit and artificial grade boosts (e.g. "I just need *one more point* to get an A! Please! Pretty please!") will never be offered.

Your current grade will always be accessible to you via Blackboard; I strongly encourage you to monitor your grade throughout the semester and to contact me as soon as you have any concerns. If you get in touch with me early, we can work together to help overcome the obstacles you may be facing; if you wait until the end of the semester it may be too late. Remember, I am here to help – you just need to ask!

<b>Exams</b>	<b>400 points</b>
<b>Book Report</b>	<b>100 points</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>500 Points</b>

## Tech Support

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### Blackboard Technical Support

Support for issues relating to Blackboard can be obtained via the "Blackboard Support" link in the course Blackboard page, by visiting [https://help.blackboard.com/en-us/Learn/9.1\\_2014\\_04/Student](https://help.blackboard.com/en-us/Learn/9.1_2014_04/Student), or by calling (800) 424-9299. Issues for which you should use this route include, but are not limited to:

- Inability to access Blackboard page (e.g. page will not load)
- Inability to access specific content within the Blackboard page (e.g. assignments, lecture videos)

## ADA Statement

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Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office.

For More information Contact

*Levelland*

Linda Young

Disability Accommodations Specialist

1401 S. College Ave.

Levelland, TX 79336

Phone: 806-716-2577

Fax: 806-897-0371

lyoung@southplainscollege.edu

*Reese*

Dawn Valles

Coordinator of Disability Services Reese

819 Gilbert Drive

Lubbock, TX 79416

Phone: 806-716-4675

dvalles@southplainscollege.edu

## Diversity Statement

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In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

## Accessibility Statements

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**Blackboard**

<https://www.blackboard.com/platforms/learn/resources/accessibility.aspx>

## Course Schedule

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Note: course schedule is subject to change

