

SYLLABUS

COURSE INFORMATION

PSYC 2320.001: Lifespan Developmental Psychology
SPRING 2026 TH 6:00 – 8:45 pm

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Rachel Bloser, MA, LPC, NCC

Email: rachel.bloser@gmail.com

Office hours: Contact me to set up Zoom meeting

Contact Information: The best way to contact me is via Canvas messages. I also check my personal email (posted above) frequently. If I do not respond to your message within 48 hours, please message me again.

COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Physiological, perceptual, cognitive, social, and affective change from conception to death, with an emphasis on transitions and developmental challenges throughout the lifespan.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES & ASSESSMENTS

As a result of taking this course, successful students will be able to:

- Identify the primary reasons for studying human development across the lifespan.
- Describe the process of researching developmental changes over time.
- Identify, explain, and apply the major theories of human development across different stages of life.
- Identify and explain the impact/interaction between genes and environment on development.
- Describe factors that may affect development at different stages of life.
- Identify the main stages of prenatal development and the process of birth.
- Identify and explain the primary biological, cognitive, and psychosocial changes that occur during infancy, early childhood, middle childhood, adolescence, emerging adulthood, adulthood, and late adulthood.
- Demonstrate an understanding of how cultural differences can impact development.
- Demonstrate the ability to apply developmental research to current social issues.

TEXTBOOK

ONLINE PLATFORM (INCLUDES E-BOOK)

Kathleen Stassen Berger: Invitation to the Life Span, 6th Edition, Worth Publishers, 2025.
ISBN 9781319564575: Read and Practice for Invitation to the Life Span (1-Term Access)

Or

LOOSELEAF VERSION

Kathleen Stassen Berger: Invitation to the Life Span, 6th Edition, Worth Publishers, 2025.
ISBN 9781319603861: Loose Leaf Version for Invitation to the Life Span & Read and Practice for Invitation to the Life Span

NOTE: A student at UT-Tyler is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from a university affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

TEACHING STRATEGIES

My main objective in this class is to help you learn the course material. I believe that attending class, taking good notes, and reading the textbook is important for you to succeed. I lecture primarily from the textbook, but I will supplement with other materials such as short videos, group discussions, guest speakers, and in-class activities. I cannot cover all textbook material in lecture, so you are expected to read your text to prepare for exams. Successful students read the textbook and study! Class attendance is strongly encouraged- multiple class assignments require you to attend in-person.

EVALUATION AND GRADING

Exams 225 points – 3 exams, worth 75 points each

Quizzes 120 points – 4 quizzes, worth 30 points each

Guest Speaker Attendance 30 points- 2 speakers, 15 points each

Reflection Essay 50 points

Cumulative Final 75 points –worth 75 points

Total Possible Points 500 points

Research credits do not add to your point total; however, if you do not complete them, you will lose 50 points from your final grade. Essentially, failure to complete them will drop you an entire letter grade. Extra credit points will be added to your overall point total at the end of the semester.

GRADE ASSIGNMENT

A = 450 – 500 points

B = 400 – 449 points

C = 350 – 399 points

D = 300 – 349 points

F = 299 points or below

In order to calculate your grade, keep track of the number of points you accumulate throughout the semester. Grades will be assigned based on the point distribution listed above.

EXAMS

There will be 3 multiple choice exams given during the semester. Each exam is worth 75 points. These exams will be held online, during class time. Exams will cover information from lectures and textbook readings. If you purchase online access, the LearningCurve exercises through Achieve are a good way to practice for exams.

The exams are worth a total of 225 points.

Tentative Exam Dates:

February 12, 2026– Chapters 1-4

March 26, 2026– Chapters 5-10

April 23, 2026– Chapters 11-15

**Exams will most likely be administered on these dates, but these dates are subject to change at the instructor's discretion. There is a possibility that material covered on each exam will change depending on the amount of material covered each week. It is the instructor's discretion to make changes to exam dates and/or material covered as the semester progresses.*

QUIZZES

There will be 4 quizzes throughout the semester. Each quiz is worth 30 points. The quiz questions will be short-answer, multiple-choice, or true/false. They will be administered in-person at the very beginning of class. You will have approximately 10-15 minutes to take the quiz. If you arrive late, you will only have the remaining time allotted to complete the quiz. The quizzes will cover the **portion** of the chapter(s) covered during the previous week. The quizzes are worth a total of 120 points.

Tentative Quiz Dates:

January 29, 2026

February 26, 2026

March 19, 2026

April 9, 2026

**Quizzes will most likely be administered on these dates, but these dates are subject to change at the instructor's discretion. There is a possibility that material covered on each quiz will change depending on the amount of material covered each week. It is the instructor's discretion to make changes to quiz dates and/or material covered as the semester progresses.*

GUEST SPEAKERS

We will have 2 guest speakers visit us throughout the semester and discuss various topics related to our course. Attending class to listen to the speakers, actively engaging with them and being respectful is expected. You will lose points if you show up late, leave early or are disrespectful in any way towards our guests. Each speaker session is worth 15 points, totaling 30 points in this class.

**Speakers will most likely be on these dates, but these dates are subject to change at the instructor's discretion. It is the instructor's discretion to make changes to dates covered as the semester progresses.*

REFLECTION PAPER

This is an essay that allows you to reflect on what you have learned in this course and apply it to your own life. This assignment requires you to understand a learned concept in depth, further explain it, and then show how it relates to you. Grading rubric and more information will be posted on Canvas. This paper is worth 50 points. Due on **April 10, 2026**.

CUMULATIVE FINAL EXAM

There will be a cumulative final exam on **April 30, 2026**. The final is worth 75 points. It will be 150 multiple choice questions, covering all chapters (1-15) from your textbook. This will be held online.

EXTRA CREDIT OPTIONS

If you wish to earn bonus points toward your final point total, you may choose to participate in one or more of the following:

1. Perfect Attendance:

I will take attendance EACH class IN PERSON. In order to track bonus points, students sign a roster at the END of class to indicate that they were present. Students that maintain PERFECT attendance during the semester will have 10 bonus points added to your overall point-total for the semester. Perfect attendance means that you stayed until the end of EVERY class.

If you miss 0 times = 10 points

If you miss 1 time = 5 points

If you miss 2 times or more = 0 points

I do not "excuse" absences for this bonus exercise. It is an all or nothing policy. I understand that situations, such as illness or funerals, do occur. However, perfect attendance means that you missed NO class for any reason. Maximum of **10 bonus points** for this option.

2. Participation in Counseling with Graduate Students:

Students may volunteer to participate in counseling with graduate students in the psychology department. You will be given 1 point for each session that you attend. Each session is approximately 1 hour. Maximum of **10 bonus points** for this option.

3. Other Extra Credit Assignments:

I may offer other extra credit opportunities such as volunteering, attending certain events, or watching documentary films. If I do offer any, they will be announced in class and posted on Canvas.

UT TYLER PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT RESEARCH REQUIREMENT

The Psychology Department requires that all students taking 1000-, 2000-, and 3000- level psychology courses to complete a research requirement.

***This is a requirement for the psychology department, not for this class specifically. It does not contribute to points, but will result in a reduction of 50 points if you do not complete it. ***

There are two ways to fulfill the requirement:

1. You may complete research credits by participating in psychology studies. A credit is earned for every 30 minutes of research participation. Most studies are 30 minutes long or less, so most studies will count as 1 credit. If the study is longer than 30 minutes, you will receive 2 credits. The number of credits required varies from one course to the next, and your instructor will tell you how many credits are required to complete the research requirement in his or her specific course. This course requires 6 research credits to be obtained during the semester (3 hours).

2. In lieu of the research participation, you may instead complete a 5-page research report on a topic concerning developmental psychology. The topic for the paper can be found in Canvas. You do the paper, you do NOT have to participate in psychology research on campus (option 1). This is merely another option for obtaining your 6 research credits. If your paper is acceptable, then you will receive your 6 credits. If it is not acceptable, you will be notified to revise and resubmit by the final deadline.

Due Date:

If you choose to complete the research participation, at least 3 of the credits must be submitted on or before **March 6, 2026**. Failure to do so will result in a 5% reduction to your final course grade (25 points). The remaining 3 credits needed to fulfill the requirement must be submitted on or before **April 24, 2026**. Failure to submit the remaining credits by this date will result in an additional 5% reduction to your final grade (25 points).

If you choose to complete the research paper, it must be submitted by **April 24, 2026**. There is a tab in Canvas with further instructions about this requirement.

COURSE POLICIES

1. **Class Participation:** Since this class is over 2 hours in length, it is much more fun and engaging when students participate. That being said, you do not have an actual participation "grade;" however, points may be added (or subtracted) based on your participation. For instance, if a student is within a few points of the next letter grade, participation, or lack thereof, may be a determining factor. In the same way, if you are inappropriate in class, make rude statements, or are disrespectful in any way to your classmates or the instructor, points may be subtracted from your grade, accordingly.
2. **Attendance:** Attendance is expected and required to be successful in this class. You will only be allowed to make-up a quiz/exam in the event of an excused absence. Excused absences may include doctor's documented illness, death/funeral, religious observation, or UTT athletics from approved schedule, which pertains to athletes. All absences WILL REQUIRE an acceptable form of documentation to be considered "excused."
3. **What If I miss an Exam or Quiz?** If you miss class on a quiz day or are unavailable during an exam, you MAY be allowed to make-up the exam or quiz. ALL make-up exams or quizzes require a documented, EXCUSED absence in order to receive a re-take. Make-up exams will be rescheduled, and make-up quizzes be taken the week after the missed class. An excused absence is defined by the university policy and instructor's discretion as a documented illness, death/funeral, religious observation, or UTT athletics. Students MUST provide some

form of appropriate documentation in order to make-up missed exams and quizzes. I DO NOT want you coming to class sick. If you feel sick, contact me and we will make arrangements for you. If you have an EXCUSED absence and miss a guest speaker, we will come up with an alternate assignment.

4. **Texting, Social Media, and Appropriate Behavior:** Please do not use the internet or text on your phone throughout class. Consistent use of social media during class lectures (i.e. laughing, being on your phone) may result in a reduction in points. Furthermore, any disruptions in class due to inappropriate behavior (i.e. talking during a lecture, inappropriate statements, discriminatory remarks, etc.), may also result in a reduction of points. If a student is consistently disrupting learning, they will be asked to leave and reported to the dean of student affairs.

CLASS SCHEDULE AND TOPICAL OUTLINE:

Date:**Outline for Class:**

January 15, 2026

Syllabus, Start Chapter 1

January 22, 2026

Finish Chapter 1, Start Chapter 2

January 29, 2026

Quiz # 1, Finish Chapter 2, Start Chapter 3

February 5, 2026

Finish Chapter 3, Chapter 4

February 12, 2026

Exam # 1 (Chapters 1-4)

February 19, 2026

Chapter 5, Begin Chapter 6

February 26, 2026

Quiz # 2, Finish Chapter 6, Start Chapter 7

March 5, 2026

Finish Chapter 7, Chapter 8

Psychology Research Credits Due March 6, 2026

March 12, 2026

SPRING BREAK- NO CLASS

March 19, 2026

Quiz # 3, Chapter 9, Chapter 10

March 26, 2026

Exam # 2 (Chapters 5-10)

April 2, 2026

Chapter 11, Begin Chapter 12,

April 9, 2026

Quiz # 4, Finish Chapter 12, Chapter 13

Reflection Paper Due April 10, 2026

April 16, 2026

Chapter 14, Chapter 15

April 23, 2026

Exam # 3 (Chapters 11-15)

Psychology Research Credits/Paper Due April 24, 2026

April 30, 2026

Final Exam (Chapters 1-15)