Developmental Psychology PSYC 4353.060

Term: Fall 2026 7 Week

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Office Hours: By appointment. Contact in CANVAS

Course Dates: August 24, 2026 – October 10, 2026

Course Times: Online Asynchronous

Classroom: Canvas

Course Overview

The study of theory and current research on developmental psychology across the lifespan, with an emphasis on the growth of personality and cognitive abilities

Student Learning Outcomes

After successfully completing this course you will be able to:

- Identify the history, theories, and methods of developmental psychology
- Identify heredity and prenatal development as it relates to developmental psychology
- Recognize and identify developmental norms in the newborn baby
- Recognize and identify developmental norms of infancy, specifically physical, cognitive and social development
- Recognize and identify the developmental norms of early childhood, specifically physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development.
- Recognize and identify the developmental norms of middle childhood, specifically physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development.
- Recognize and identify the developmental norms of adolescence, specifically physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development.
- Recognize and identify the developmental norms of early adulthood, specifically physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development.
- Recognize and identify the developmental norms of middle adulthood specifically physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development.

- Recognize and identify the developmental norms of late adulthood, specifically physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development.
- Summarize the stages of the end of life

Course Structure

This is a fully online asynchronous course with modules that open on first date of the course and each module has it's own due date throughout the term. This course is organized in 7 Unit Modules, each covering 2 to 4 chapters. There will be chapter reading, online videos/activities, chapter discussion postings, and either a video reflection assignment or an exam.

Required Textbook Information

- HDEV 5th edition, by Stephen Rathus You may use Ebook or print version as long as it is the correct edition.
- On-campus bookstore or any online rental/purchase sites are resources to find the book.
- NOTE: You WILL do lots of reading in this on-line course, and you WILL need this textbook to do the coursework, so you MUST have this textbook to successfully complete this course.

Tips for Success in this Course

- Contrary to popular belief, online courses are just as hard and are often more time consuming than traditional courses. Rather than sitting in a physical classroom listening to your instructor lecture for 3 hours a week, you will be getting your materials through reading, online notes, presentations, videos, and activities.
- Instead of asking questions and receiving an instantaneous answer from your professor, you will be either posting or e-mailing your questions. While most online professors will respond to your concerns as soon as possible, you will need to be patient.
- As you will not be in the classroom, you will need to be much more self-directed than it might seem. In other words, you must take responsibility for your own learning.
- At a minimum, an online course requires students to use their time wisely, be organized, be self-directed, and be willing to try new modes of communication and learning.
- Good time management and planning are necessary skills.
- Students who do well are those who are willing to put in the needed time, read the text carefully (even the dull sections), and participate in the online activities.
- You will be expected to check your e-mail frequently, get all assignments in on time, not allow yourself to fall behind at all.
- This is not a correspondence course. You will have hard due dates and are expected to work on assignments on a timely basis.

- Use Canvas notification settings. Pro tip! Canvas can ensure you receive timely notifications in your email or via text. Be sure to enable notifications to be sent instantly or daily. (Canvas Notification Guide)
- Ask for help if needed. If you are struggling with a course concept, reach out to me and your classmates for support.

Graded Course Requirements Information

Major Exams

- The exams are located in Canvas in their correct sequence.
- You may use your textbook, Power Points, notes, but NOT another person or computer Google searches/AI. Do not rely on these items exclusively because of the time constraints. You really need to KNOW the material.
- During the exam you are not allowed to do any backtracking.
- Each exam is a mixture of 100 questions, true/false and multiple choice.
- The exams are timed, 200 minutes each. Once the timer starts, it does not stop.
- Please study as if this was a lecture-based course.
- Please read the section on academic dishonesty. It is not tolerated ***AT ALL***. If cheating is suspected, you will be reported to the Office of Student Affairs.

Video Reflection Assignments

- You are to generate 4 critical thinking questions and answer them using credible sources (NOT Wikipedia, about.com, etc). Critical thinking questions are those that ask “why” and “what if” and evaluate the truth of information presented with previous knowledge and through additional research.
- After asking your 5 critical thinking questions, you will attempt to answer each question by doing additional research beyond the scope of the film. Your answers should be written in full sentences and should be primarily in your own words. Be sure that you cite all sources in APA style and include a Works Cited page. Please read the section on academic dishonesty. It is not tolerated ***AT ALL***. If cheating is suspected, you will be reported to the Office of Student Affairs.
- The final component of your assignment is to write a reflection on the assignment. A reflection is not a summary, but an evaluation of your feelings, thoughts, and reactions to the information you’ve explored.
- There is a grading rubric for these assignments in the "Getting Started" module. Once you have submitted an assignment through ***Turnitin***, you cannot make any corrections or additions to the assignment.

Chapter Discussion Postings

- You will be required to participate in discussion postings which will focus on topics related to each chapter.

- You are expected to post your own initial posting, then reply to at least three other students' posts.
- Your initial posting should be thorough, detailed, elaborative, and at least three good paragraphs or more.
- Your replies should also be thoughtful and elaborative. At lease a good paragraph. Much more than just simply replying, “I agree,” or “good posting.”
- There is a “Meet and Greet” discussion in the “Start Here” module that everyone needs to do the start of the semester. It is not for a grade, but is used to determine your “class participation,” will help everyone in the online class get to know each other a little bit at least, and get familiar with the chapter discussion forums. Students will have an opportunity to introduce themselves by writing a short biography including a little background on yourself, what you are majoring in, plans and goals for future, interests and hobbies, and whatever you feel comfortable sharing.

Grading Structure

Assignment	**Percentage %**
Major Exams (3)	50%
Chapter Discussion Postings (19)	30%
Video Reflections (4)	20%

Grading Scale

A - 90% or higher
B - 80 - 89%
C - 70 - 79%
D - 60 - 69%
F - Below 60%

Late Work and Make-Up Exams

Life happens and unexpected situations arise. Late assignments are accepted up to 3 days after the due date with a 10% deduction per day (10% off for 1 day late, 20% off for 2 days late, 30% off for 3 days late). After 3 days, assignments receive a zero unless you have communicated with me about extenuating circumstances. If you experience emergencies or ongoing challenges, please contact me as early as possible so we can develop a plan together.

AI (Artificial Intelligence) Policy

This course has no assignments that require the use of AI to complete, so please use your course materials, mainly your textbook, to do your work. Any AI generated assignments are considered academic dishonesty and will subject a student to penalty. NOTE: This is university and students are expected to be responsible adults, taking ownership for learning and creating assignments. Participate in the course fully, with integrity, and make the most of your university experience.

Attendance Policy:

As this is an online asynchronous course, traditional attendance is not taken. However, "attendance" is reflected in your consistent engagement with course materials and timely completion of assignments. Logging in regularly and participating actively in discussions demonstrates your commitment to the course.

UT Tyler PSYCHOLOGY & COUNSELING

University Policies & Student Resources:

University policies and student resources are available on the University website and in Canvas under “Syllabus”. (You may copy or print the following information to include in your syllabus or use the links provided below.)

- University Policy
- Student Resources

Topical Outline

Getting Started Module:

- Read and make sure you understand all the material contained here. Pay particular attention to the course schedule and the syllabus.
- Do the Meet and Greet discussion question to "show up" for the class and to practice for the other graded discussion postings.

Module 1:

- Chapter 1: History, Theories, and Methods
- Chapter 2: Heredity and Prenatal Development
- Chapter 3: Birth and the Newborn Baby: In the New World
- ***Reflection 1: The Business of Being Born***

Module 2:

- Chapter 4: Infancy: Physical Development
- Chapter 5: Infancy: Cognitive Development
- Chapter 6: Infancy: Social and Emotional Development
- ***Exam 1: Chapters 1 - 6***

Module 3:

- Chapter 7: Early Childhood: Physical and Cognitive Development
- Chapter 8: Early Childhood: Social and Emotional Development
- Chapter 9: Middle Childhood: Physical and Cognitive Development
- Chapter 10: Middle Childhood: Social and Emotional Development
- ***Reflection 2: The Vaccine War***

Module 4:

- Chapter 11: Adolescence: Physical and Cognitive Development
- Chapter 12: Adolescence: Social and Emotional Development

- ***Exam 2: Chapters 7 - 12***

Module 5:

- Chapter 13: Early Adulthood: Physical and Cognitive Development
- Chapter 14: Early Adulthood: Social and Emotional Development
- ***Reflection 3: The Weight of a Nation (Part 1)***

Module 6:

- Chapter 15: Middle Adulthood: Physical and Cognitive Development
- Chapter 16: Middle Adulthood: Social and Emotional Development
- ***Reflection 4: Facing Death***

Module 7:

- Chapter 17: Late Adulthood: Physical and Cognitive Development
- Chapter 18: Late Adulthood: Social and Emotional Development
- Chapter 19: Life's Final Chapter
- ***Exam 3 Chapters 13 - 19***