

# PSYC 2314: Lifespan Growth & Development

## Course Syllabus

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“Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide responsible, exemplary learning opportunities.”

**Instructor: Wendy Mills, MA**

**Email: [wmills@ntcc.edu](mailto:wmills@ntcc.edu)**

Since this is an online class, I prefer students to contact me via email.

I will answer all student emails within 48 hours, with the exceptions of weekends and holiday

*The information contained in this syllabus is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in the Blackboard course site. Students are expected to be aware of any additional course policies presented by the instructor during the course.*

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Life-Span Growth and Development is a study of social, emotional, cognitive and physical factors and influences of a developing human from conception to death.

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

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.

## **TEXTBOOK**

(You have already paid for access to the e-book. Instructions on accessing the e-book are listed on the course site, inside the START HERE folder)

The textbook is required for this course.

### Textbook Information

Author: Berk, L. E. (2014).

Title: Development through the lifespan

Edition: (7th ed.).

Publisher: Allyn and Bacon.

## **GENERAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. You must have access to the Internet and email on a daily basis. If you do not have reliable and consistent internet access, you will need to withdraw from the course.
2. You must also have a copy of the current edition of the textbook for the semester.
3. It is your responsibility to check your class calendar and know when assignments are due and submit them on time. I will not tell or remind you that it is time to turn something in.
4. Reading assignments are listed in the course outline. Please read the assigned reading per chapter before completing the discussions and activities.
5. You will have chapter assignments each week in the form of discussions and short activities. Late work will not be accepted. Two minutes late due to a slow computer or bad internet connection will not be excused and will receive a zero.
6. You will also have 4 writing assignments in the form of observation papers. The due dates for these assignments are on your course calendar. Once again, late work will not be accepted.
7. You must read all discussion posts from all students each week. You will be required to respond to at least two students within each discussion. Please try to post your own posts by Wednesday of each week to allow your classmates plenty of time to comment and for a conversation to get started.
8. All assignments that are submitted MUST be in .doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf format. Formats other than this will NOT be accepted. Please submit your assignments

through the Blackboard learning modules. Please do not submit assignments to my NTCC email address.

9. Anyone who desires to withdraw from the class must formally withdraw from the class in the Registrar's office. Otherwise an F for the course will be given if you simply stop attending class. If you miss more than 3 class assignments or get behind in your online course work, you should consult me before withdrawing. If at any time you are concerned about your grade, you are encouraged to speak with me about ways to improve your study skills and bring up your grade.

10. If you have any questions regarding class assignments or about material from the book, you are to post the questions on the discussion board in Blackboard. However, if you have a personal question, please email me rather than use the discussion board.

11. Active class participation is expected. Class activities will include exercises and hands-on activities designed to increase your understanding of the material. Please be active in the discussion board. Answer questions that your classmates have posted. Help each other.

#### **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

In order to be successful in this course, students need to possess minimum technical skills such as the ability to send email, to attach documents to email, submit files through Blackboard, open and save attachments, type documents using a word processing application, and be familiar with web browsers.

1. You must have access to the Internet and email on a daily basis. If you do not have reliable and consistent internet access at home, at work, or in a public location, then you will need to withdraw from the course. Please check your Blackboard email and discussion board every day.

2. All assignments that are submitted MUST be in .doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf format. Formats other than this will NOT be accepted. Please submit your assignments through the Blackboard learning modules. Please do not submit assignments to my NTCC email address.

3. Videos are often utilized in this course, which will require speakers or earbuds/headphones and a graphics card.

4. Access to a printer is highly recommended for printing out important course documents.

### **Computer/Blackboard Access**

If you have not had the portal set up on your computer, you may want to get your computer “campus ready” by visiting a technical assistant in MS 103. You will need to see him for internet access anywhere on campus and how to access the portal.

From the portal, click on the Blackboard link and then click on the course number for your class. You will access this with your first initial of your first name and your full last name and the last 3 digits of your social security number. No spaces.

Example: jsmith378. Your password will be your birth date using 8 digits. Example: 04031979. If you have problems accessing your class, contact Austin Baker in MS 103 computer lab on campus or phone 903-434-8279 or 8280. You may also email him at [atabaker@ntcc.edu](mailto:atabaker@ntcc.edu)

### **Blackboard Tutorials**

Blackboard tutorials are provided on the Blackboard home page or on the menu bar of the home page of the course. Once logged in, you can click on the Help button to find answers to your Blackboard questions. Knowing how to navigate through the course will aid in your success this semester.

### **COMMUNICATION**

I do not have an office on campus. That means that all of our communication will take place through email.

Please send all emails to [wmills@ntcc.edu](mailto:wmills@ntcc.edu). I do not check the Blackboard email system very often. Using my school email address is a much more efficient way to contact me.

You should check into Blackboard often during the week to keep yourself updated on information. I will often send class news by the Blackboard announcement feature, so make sure you check the class announcements regularly. I will return emails within a 24-hour period except weekends or holidays. I will return emails sent over the weekend on Monday.

The majority of our class communication should be in the discussion board under the appropriate topics. Post your questions and start conversations about the material. Help your classmates by answering their questions. Use private email when you have a question about your grade or want to tell me information you do not wish to share with everyone. Please do not send group emails to everyone; post those questions in the discussion board. You may use the chat rooms for study groups. Post in the discussion board that you want to have a study group with your classmates. Arrange a day and time for you to all meet there and discuss the material.

**All course assignments, their open dates and deadlines are listed on the CLASS CALENDAR.**

### **COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

The course is divided into 5 modules.

Chapter Assignments and Discussions : Your chapter assignments can be found for each week in the "Modules" on the home page. Then click on the chapter for that week, then "Learning Activities and Assignments". These assignments must be completed and received by the deadlines stated in the class calendar. All chapter assignments and discussions must be completed and submitted on time. Points WILL NOT be given for late chapter assignments and discussions. You will earn a zero for these items that are received past 11:59pm. Chapter assignments will include exercises and hands-on activities designed to increase your understanding of the material. These should be submitted using Blackboard. Please do not email them to your instructor using NTCC email. If you do experience difficulty, please contact the Technology Help Desk for assistance. When a discussion question has been assigned, you must post your own answer in the Discussion Board feature on Blackboard. It should be well-written, in paragraph format just like a short essay.

Use correct spelling and grammar. In addition to posting your own answer, you must also reply to at least two different classmates. In your reply, you might tell them whether you agree or disagree with them and why, ask them questions about what they said, answer a question that they asked, debate them, challenge them, etc. Simply saying that you agree doesn't count. Just please remember to be respectful in your comments – NO bashing allowed! Make sure you go back after you have posted your response to read your classmates' comments so you don't miss anything. I encourage you to take the discussion questions seriously. They are not "busy work"; it is the best attempt at creating a traditional classroom environment where we would all be interacting with each other. Your grade will also be based on the quality and quantity of your responses and replies. Your participation is even more important in an online course than in a traditional on-campus class. Active class participation is expected.

This is the rubric used to grade discussions:

100 points – for posting your own answer plus responding to at least 2 classmates

66 points – for posting your own answer plus responding to one classmate

33 points – for posting your own answer but not responding to any classmates

0 points – for not completing the discussion or turning the discussion in late

## **QUIZZES**

There will be 5 module quizzes.

All quizzes will be between 25-50 multiple-choice questions and will each count 100 points. They will all be taken online from any computer. You do not have to take them on campus. Exam questions will come from the textbook and the online chapter notes that are in Blackboard. You can find the notes in the "Chapter Notes" section. You will have 1 hour for each exam. You MAY NOT use your textbook, notes, or any additional resources for exams. You are asked to be honest and allow this testing to be based on your knowledge just as if you were in a classroom situation taking an exam. Once you open the exam, your time begins and you may not start and stop the time. When your time is over, you will not be allowed to continue. It is best to make sure you are not interrupted and can have the entire 1 hour to complete the exam without disruption. It is also best to save every answer as you finish each question. Should there be a computer problem, it will be indicated on your computer and you will need to discuss this with me to make special arrangements to complete your exam. This is allowed only in very specific situations.

There are no make-ups for missing an exam unless there is an extreme emergency. If you miss an exam and did have an extreme emergency, contact the instructor within 48 hours of the quiz's deadline. Make sure to have proper documentation explaining the emergency.

## **OBSERVATION PAPERS**

Two observation papers are required for every student in this course. Each observation is valued at 100 points. You are NOT to go to a school (public or private) to complete your observation. More detailed instructions, observation ideas, and consent forms can be found on the Blackboard course site.

## **SLO QUIZ**

At the end of the semester, all students will be required to complete the SLO Quiz. This quiz is comprehensive, covering all chapters of material. This quiz will contain 30 multiple-choice questions. Students will have 45 minutes to complete the quiz. This quiz is mandatory! Students will not be allowed access to Module 5 Quiz until this SLO quiz has been completed.

## **SEMESTER PROJECT**

Students will write a paper based on their own development and using empirical data. Further project instructions are listed on the course site.

## **GRADING**

All assignments must be turned in on time. No late work accepted.

### *GRADE REVIEW POLICY*

Your quiz grades will be posted immediately upon completing the quiz on Blackboard in "My Grades". Check immediately. If your quiz grade did not appear, contact the instructor within 24 hours.

Weekly chapter assignments and discussions will be graded and posted within 1 week of their due date. Once the grades are posted, I will send out a class wide email stating that grades are now able to view. Once that email goes out, students will have 48 hours to review their grade. Once the review period passes, I will no longer address questions regarding that specific assignment.

Grades will be computed as follows:

Introductory activities (N=2) = 5%

Observation Papers (N=2) = 10%

Assignments (N=2) = 10%

Module Quizzes (N=5) = 40%

Discussions = 15%

Coffee Shop forum = 10%

Semester Project = 10%

The grading scale below will be used to determine your final grade.

### Percentage Grade

100% - 90% = A

89% - 80% = B

79% - 70% = C

69% - 60% = D

BELOW 59% = F

### *EXTRA CREDIT POLICY*

Extra credit is not provided in the course. If you are not making the grade that you hoped for, please talk to me and I will try to give you ideas that may help bring up your grade. I will not, however, provide any additional assignments that you could complete to bring up your grade. I do not grade on a curve and I do not throw out any assignments or exam questions.

### *LATE SUBMISSION POLICY*

I do not accept any assignment late except in cases of extreme emergency. Students are to contact me privately at [wmills@ntcc.edu](mailto:wmills@ntcc.edu) to discuss any emergency situation and how to make up missed work.

## **FINAL REMINDERS**

Please remember:

\*All assignments are always due by 11:59pm on their respective deadline. All assignment deadlines are listed in the Class Calendar.

\*I do not accept late work.

\*Keep in mind that computers often malfunction and email and the internet often go down, so I encourage you not to wait until the last minute to submit your work or complete your exams. Computer troubles will not be accepted as an excuse for late work.

\*Communication prevents disaster!!! If you have a concern, communicate this concern to me BEFORE it's too late. Contacting me a week after the semester is over because you are unhappy with your grade does not work. Talk to me BEFORE and not AFTER.

## **SERVICE LEARNING CLASS**

You may also choose to sign up for a Service Learning class listed as PSYC 2389. A major focus in this course is to help you understand the science socialization develop in a person's life. By taking part in a project that is centralized in a community setting, you will be able to develop insights that you cannot get just by reading a textbook or listening to lectures. Other students who have taken advantage of this opportunity have reported back that the experiences were well worth the time and effort and that their cultural and civic pride was heightened. Likewise, many students have made career decisions based on their experiences in the community. Many of you are going into one of the helping professions and a Service Learning class will increase the importance of knowing that we need to give back to the community above and beyond college, employment, membership in civic and social organizations, and so on. Contact John Coleman, the Coordinator of Service-Learning, [jcoleman@ntcc.edu](mailto:jcoleman@ntcc.edu) for more information about community sites and classes.

## **CORE CURRICULUM PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES**

Through the core curriculum, students will gain a foundation of knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world; develop principles of personal and social responsibility for living in a diverse world; and advance intellectual and practical skills that are essential for all learning. Courses in the foundation area of social and behavioral sciences focus on the application of empirical and scientific methods that contribute to the understanding of what makes us human. Courses involve the exploration of behavior and interactions among individuals, groups, institutions, and events, examining their impact on the individual, society, and culture.



Core Curriculum Objectives for the social and behavioral sciences:

*Critical thinking:*

CT1: Students will demonstrate the ability to 1) analyze complex issues, 2) synthesize information, and 3) evaluate the logic, validity, and relevance of data.

CT2: Students will demonstrate the ability to 1) make informed decision, 2) arrive at reasoned conclusions, 3) solve challenging problems, and 4) use knowledge and understanding in order to generate and explore new questions.

*Communication Skills:*

CS1: Students will effectively develop, interpret and express ideas through written communication.

CS2: Students will effectively develop, interpret and express ideas through oral communication within a specific timeline.

CS3: Students will effectively develop, interpret and express ideas using visual communications components.

*Empirical and Quantitative Skills:*

EQS1: Students will manipulate numerical data or observable facts by organizing and converting relevant information into mathematical or empirical forms (e.g. equations, graphs, diagrams, tables, or words).

EQS2: Students will analyze numerical data or observable facts by processing information with correct calculations, explicit notations, and appropriate technology.

EQS3: Students will draw informed conclusions from numerical data or observable facts that are accurate, complete, and relevant to the investigation.

*Social Responsibility:*

SR1: Students will demonstrate understanding of intercultural competence.

SR2: Students will demonstrate knowledge of civic responsibility.

SR3: Students will demonstrate the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

## **OFFICIAL POLICIES**

### **Withdrawals**

Anyone who desires to withdraw from the class must formally withdraw from the class in the Registrar's office by the withdrawal deadline. Otherwise a failing grade will be given if you simply stop attending class. A student who officially withdraws from a course after the twelfth class day but within the first twelve weeks of a regular semester, after the seventh class day but within the first 8 weeks of the summer semester, or after the fourth class day but within the first four weeks of a 5-week summer term will receive a grade of "W" in the course. Students may not

withdraw from school or drop classes after this time and receive a grade of “W”. Requests for withdrawals must be made in person, in a written and signed request sent by mail or by FAX, or by email using the student’s Northeast email account only. Emails will not be accepted from other email accounts. Withdrawals will not be accepted by telephone.

### **Academic Ethics**

The college expects all students to engage in academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuit. Academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. Refer to the student handbook for more information on this subject.

Any use of artificial intelligence (AI) in any form is considered cheating and will be treated as such.

### **Honesty Statement**

Students are expected to complete all coursework in an honest manner, using their intellects and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty policy stated in the Student Handbook. A ZERO WILL BE GIVEN FOR ANY WORK THAT IS PLAGIARIZED. A ZERO WILL ALSO BE GIVEN FOR COLLUSION AND COPYING OF ANOTHER’S WORK.

### **ADA Statement**

It is the policy of Northeast Texas Community College to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals who are students with disabilities. This College will adhere to all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student’s responsibility to arrange an appointment with a College counselor to obtain a Request for Accommodations form. For more information, please refer to the Northeast Texas Community College Catalog or Student Handbook.

### **Family Educational Rights And Privacy Act (FERPA)**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children’s educational records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are considered “eligible students.” In essence, a parent has no legal right to obtain information concerning the child’s college records without the written consent of the student. In compliance with FERPA, information classified as “directory information” may be released to the general public without the written consent of the student unless the student makes a request in writing. Directory information is defined as: the student’s name, permanent address and/or local address, telephone listing, dates of

attendance, most recent previous education institution attended, other information including major, field of study, degrees, awards received, and participation in officially recognized activities/sports.

### **Tobacco Use Policy (Smoking)**

The College District prohibits the use of any type of tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes, on College District grounds and in College District buildings, facilities, and vehicles in order to provide students, employees, and visitors a safe and healthy environment. This prohibition shall also apply to spaces leased by the College District. The use of tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes, shall be permitted in designated areas and private vehicles parked on College District property provided any residue is retained within the vehicle.

### **WAYS TO BE A CRITICAL READER**

Critical thinking will also be stressed in this class.

Critical thinking includes:

\*Define the problem

\*Avoiding emotional reasoning (“If I feel this way, it must be true!”)

\*Consider other interpretations

\*Tolerating uncertainty

\*Question – Be skeptical. Don’t believe everything you hear or read. Ask questions: be willing to wonder

\*Know the source of information (not just name, find out about source). Examine the evidence.

\*Avoiding over simplification. Question over-simplification – (ex. Easy steps to get rich quick or lose 10 lbs. overnight).

\*Consider the way information was acquired (Experimental method, guess, common sense, ivory tower contemplation, etc.).

\*Remember: Correlation or relationship of variables does not mean causation.

\*Don’t infer – use objective observation only – DO NOT ASSUME.

\*Don't make generalizations quickly – get more information.

\*Analyze assumptions and biases in research.