

**PSY 364-04 - Life-Span Developmental Psychology**  
Online class  
Winter 2021

**Instructor:** Mihaela Friedlmeier, Ph.D.  
Office: ASH 2309  
E-mail: [friedlmm@gvsu.edu](mailto:friedlmm@gvsu.edu)

Phone: 616-331-8706 (office)  
616-331-2195 (Psych Dep)

Please put “*Psych 364-04*” in the subject line of your email. I will do my best to respond to emails within 24 hours if they are received Monday-Friday. “See” me during virtual office hours if you have any questions/concerns that may require a lengthy response.

**\*\*This syllabus is subject to change. Most changes will be announced on Blackboard after the first and second week – please stay tuned! I will do my very best to avoid confusion and overload in the (amount of) information sent your way!**

Changes (if any) will be announced during class sessions and/or on Blackboard

**Class Attendance:**

Attendance of weekly synchronous meetings is not mandatory, but very strongly encouraged; they provide good opportunities to communicate directly with the instructor by asking & answering questions as well as participate in break-out rooms with classmates.

Students are responsible for checking Blackboard regularly for announcements and class material.

**Virtual Office hours on ZOOM:** Mondays and Wednesdays from 11am to 12pm. You can always reach me by email! Mihaela Friedlmeier is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

<https://gvsu-edu.zoom.us/j/9308966369?pwd=NVV2Z2tBbTR3a1RhcDJqakhmWVlYZz09>

Meeting ID: 930 896 6369

Passcode: 6CYPA5

**Textbook:** Sigelman, C. K., & Rider, E. A. (2017, 9<sup>th</sup> ed.). *Life-Span Human Development*. Cengage Learning. Additional material will be posted on Blackboard. You do NOT need to purchase it from the bookstore. If you are trying to save money, you could buy the book through a third party site *without* the online access code (we won't use it, but it can be useful if you have it already).

**Prerequisite:** An introductory psychology course (Psych 101 or the equivalent).

**Course Description:**

Developmental continuities, changes, and mechanisms to account for the development in multiple domains across the human life-span will be discussed. We will begin with an overview of developmental approaches, and research methods. We will then explore thematically and chronologically the development of the individual through the major periods of life. The strengths and weaknesses of developmental theories will also be critically evaluated.

**Course Format:**

In the beginning of each week, materials for every new chapter will be posted on Blackboard: lecture notes, videos, additional readings, etc. Every Tuesday we will have our synchronous sessions (around 60 to 75 minutes long), which will focus on clarifying class material, Q&A, watching short videoclips, and small groups discussion.

At the end of every week (Bb link open from Friday morning to Monday night), there will be an online multiple-choice quiz covering newly assigned material from the book or documentary.

**Course Objectives:**

The primary goal of this course is to increase students’ understanding of the sequence of human development, the processes underlying developmental change and stability (e.g., hereditary and environmental influences), explanations for individual differences in development, and the theoretical perspectives and research methods currently being used to examine human development.

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

- Demonstrate an understanding of the basic concepts and theoretical paradigms that direct the field of Life-Span Developmental Psychology.
- Describe, and think critically about, changes within the developing person through the life-span.
- Compare both traditional and current explanations for trends in the human’s physical, cognitive, and social/emotional growth.
- Understand the scientific method and apply it to the understanding of human behavior and development through the life-span.
- Apply knowledge of lifespan development to one’s experiences in life; work/careers, home/family, self and others.

**Course Outcome Measures:**

Your final grade will be based on the total number of points that you receive on two midterm exams, a final exam, weekly online quizzes, and a number of written assignments.

EXAMS: There will be three exams, each consisting of multiple-choice questions drawn from lectures, textbook, additional readings, class discussions, and videos (watched in- or outside of class). The exams are designed to assess your *comprehension* of the material, rather than superficial memorization.

A total of 11 online quizzes (5 points each): they will consist of 5 multiple choice questions (worth 1 point per question) that will assess your knowledge on topics covered in the most recent lecture (certain assigned pages from the textbook or assigned reading or assigned video).

Written assignments on various topics covered in class (individual sheets with instructions will be posted).

**Grading Scale**

	<b>Points</b>	<b>Final Grade</b>
		A 94 - 100%
<i>Exam 1</i>	65	A- 90 – 93%
<i>Exam 2</i>	65	B+ 87 - 89%
<i>Exam 3</i>	80	B 84 – 86%
<i>Quizzes (11x5)</i>	55	B- 80 – 83%
<i>Assignments</i>	125	C+ 77 – 79%
		C 74 - 76%
<b>Total</b>	<b>390</b>	C- 70 – 73%
		D+ 67 – 69%
		D 60 – 66%
		F 59% and lower

**Integrity of Scholarship and Grades:** All academic work will be done by the student to whom it was assigned. Anyone caught cheating (e.g., procuring, providing or accepting any materials which contain questions or answers to any exam or assignment, submitting work that has been previously graded) or plagiarizing (taking ideas or material from another source for either written or oral presentation without acknowledging the original source) will be dropped from the course, given an F, and referred to the University for further action. Cheating is a serious violation of academic integrity. For more information on academic honesty please see the GVSU student code <http://www.gvsu.edu/studentcode/section-4-academic-integrity-of-grades-and-scholarship-73.htm>

This course is subject to the GVSU policies listed at <http://www.gvsu.edu/coursepolicies/>

### **HOW TO SUCCEED IN PSYCH 364:**

- Read textbook Chapter(s) associated with each lecture *before* the lecture is given during synchronous sessions.
- Prepare for exams well in advance. You should re-read your lecture notes and review material on a weekly basis. If you wait until the last minute to begin preparing for an exam, you are unlikely to perform as well.

## TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

	Topic	Readings
<b>Week 1</b> <b>Jan 19-22</b>	Course Overview +Understanding Life-Span Human Development Synchronous Meeting, Tuesday 2:30-3:45 Friday to Monday: <b>Online Quiz #1</b>	Ch. 1
<b>Week 2</b> <b>Jan 25-29</b>	Genes, Environment, and Development (pp. 72-end) Synchronous Meeting, Tuesday 2:30-3:45 Friday to Monday: <b>Online Quiz #2</b>	Ch. 3
<b>Week 3</b> <b>Feb 1-5</b>	Body, Brain, and Health Synchronous Meeting, Tuesday 2:30-3:45 Friday to Monday: <b>Online Quiz #3</b>	Ch. 5
<b>Week 4</b> <b>Feb 8-12</b>	Prenatal Development and Birth <b>Friday to Monday: Exam #1 (Ch. 1, 3, 5, 4)</b>	Ch. 4
<b>Week 5</b> <b>Feb 15-19</b>	Cognition Synchronous Meeting, Tuesday 2:30-3:45 Friday to Monday: <b>Online Quiz #4</b>	Ch. 7
<b>Week 6</b> <b>Feb 22-26</b>	Intelligence and Creativity Synchronous Meeting, Tuesday 2:30-3:45 Friday to Monday: <b>Online Quiz #5</b>	Ch. 9
<b>Week 7</b> <b>Feb 29-March 5</b>	Language and education Synchronous Meeting, Tuesday 2:30-3:45 Friday to Monday: <b>Online Quiz #6</b>	Ch. 10
<b>Week 8</b> <b>March 8 to 12</b>	Self and Personality Synchronous Meeting, Tuesday 2:30-3:45 No quiz <b>Friday to Monday Exam #2 (Ch. 7, 9, 10, 11)</b>	Ch. 11
<b>Week 9</b> <b>March 15-19</b>	Gender Roles and Sexuality Synchronous Meeting, Tuesday 2:30-3:45 Friday to Monday: <b>Online Quiz #7</b>	Ch. 12
<b>Week 10</b> <b>March 22-26</b>	Social Cognition and Moral Development Synchronous Meeting, Tuesday 2:30-3:45 Friday to Monday: <b>Online Quiz #8</b>	Ch. 13
<b>Week 11</b> <b>March 29 to April 2</b>	Emotions, Attachment, and Social relationships Synchronous Meeting, Tuesday 2:30-3:45 Friday to Monday: <b>Online Quiz #9</b>	Ch. 14

<b>Week 12</b> <b>April 5-9</b>	The Family Synchronous Meeting, Tuesday 2:30-3:45 Friday to Monday: <b>Online Quiz #10</b>	Ch. 15
<b>Week 13</b> <b>April 12-16</b>	Death and Dying Synchronous Meeting, Tuesday 2:30-3:45 Friday to Monday: <b>Online Quiz #11</b>	CH. 17
<b>Week 14</b> <b>April 19-23</b>	Final Review No additional Material	
	Final Exam Thursday, April 29, 2:00 pm - 3:50 pm	