

PSY 364 – Life-Span Developmental Psychology
Winter 2020

Section 01: MWF 10:00 am-10:50 Lake Ontario Hall 174

Section 05: MWF 11:00 am-11:50 Lake Ontario Hall 174

Instructor: Dr. Christopher A. Kurby

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Office Hours: MW 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm; F 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm; or by appointment.

Required text: Sigelman, C. K., & Rider, E. A. (2009, 8th ed.). *Life-Span Human Development*. Thomson, Wadsworth. On GVSU Save.

Course Description and Objectives: This course is designed to provide students with a broad survey of research and theories in human development from conception through death. Developmental trends in the areas of physical, cognitive, and social/emotional development will be discussed. Students will learn about current knowledge in human life-span development, research findings, theoretical explanations for observed trends, practical applications of material, and traditional as well as current issues in the field. PSY 364 is a course that falls under the General Education Human Journey Theme. As such, a major objective of the course is to examine the journey of human development from multiple perspectives. Throughout the course, changes throughout the human life span will be examined in relation to various developmental theories in psychology.

Grading and requirements: There will be 3 exams, each of which will be mostly multiple-choice. Each exam is worth 100 points, however, each exam might not be 100 questions. As such, a conversion will be necessary to convert exam points into course points. For example, if the exam were 40 questions then each question would be worth 2.5 points. Almost every week we will have a low-stakes quiz designed to help you remember key information from that week. You will receive one point for having completed each quiz. However, each quiz will be self-graded in class so that you can see how you are doing. You will also be expected to write two research paper summaries. For each summary, you will pick a scientific paper to read and summarize. For the first due date, your summary will be due halfway through the semester and should be related to a topic we covered in that first half. For the second summary due date, it will be due at the end of the semester, and should be about a scientific paper related to the topics we cover in the second half. You are free to pick any paper that piques your interest, as long as it meets the assignment criteria. We will discuss the particulars of these summaries in class. There will also occasionally be readings in addition to the book chapters. These will be announced as they occur.

The points will break down as follows:

300 pts – 3 exams (100 pts each) ~ 67% of total grade

120 pts – 2 summaries ~ 27% of total grade

10 pts – 10 quizzes (1 pts each) ~ 2% of total grade

15 pts – class participation ~ 3% of total grade

Grading scale: I will announce the official grading scale during class further in the semester.

Academic Honesty: Violations of the standards of Academic Honesty will be met with severe penalties. Anyone known to be plagiarizing material or copying from another person's exam will receive a grade of zero on that assignment or exam, and possibly an F in the course. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behavior (online at <http://www.gvsu.edu/studentcode/index.cfm>) and avoid any behavior that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Any offense will be reported to the Chair of the Psychology Department, Dr. Bob Hendersen, who will determine if further action is necessary.

Disability Accommodations: Any student who requires accommodation because of a physical or learning disability must contact Disability Support Resources (<http://www.gvsu.edu/dsr>) at 616-331-2490 as soon as possible. It is the student's responsibility to request assistance from DSR. After you have documented your disability, please make an appointment or see me during office hours to discuss your specific needs. Accommodations are always designed to maintain the academic integrity of the course; student with disabilities are held to the same academic standards as all other students. Accordingly, if no additional costs (including staff time) are involved, the instructor will extend such accommodation to anyone who requests them, whether or not the student has a declared disability. If a requested accommodation requires special equipment, space, personnel, staff time, or other resources beyond those normally available to the class, the accommodation will be offered only if the student has gone through the process that begins by declaring the disability with Disability Support Services.

If you have a disability and think you might need assistance evacuating the classroom and/or building in an emergency situation, please make Dr. Kurby aware, so he can develop a plan to assist you.

Late assignments: Assignments can be handed in late, however, late assignments will lose 25% of the total points earned for that assignment every day they are late.

Missed exams: If you missed an exam and were not excused to do so, you must contact me within 48 hours of the exam date. The only acceptable reasons for missing an exam unannounced or unexcused is family/personal emergency or medical reason. If you had a medical reason that kept you from class that day, then I need medical documentation proving so (e.g., note from physician). I will then give you an opportunity to make up the exam. Missing the exam for any other reason may result in a 25% loss of points for each day the exam is not made up. If you

know you are going to miss an exam for a planned reason (e.g., out of town), let me know beforehand and we can work out an alternative testing day.

Emergency closings: If for any reason the university cancels, or if I cancel, class on an exam day (e.g., severe weather), the exam will be moved to the next class meeting.

Electronic devices: Please turn off all cell phones, pagers and other electronic devices with audible signals or alarms during class time.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE & READING ASSIGNMENTS

Week	Topic	Readings
01/09-01/13	Course overview, Learning skills, Introduction	Chapter 1 Salthouse04
01/16-01/20 (no class 01/16, no class 01/20)	Introduction (cont.) & Research methods	Chapter 1
01/23-01/27	Discuss summaries, Heredity & Environment	Chapter 3 Wynn92
01/30-02/03 (no class 02/03)	Theories of development	Chapter 2
02/06-02/10	Theories of development (cont)	Chapter 2
02/13-02/17	EXAM 1 02/13 Perception	Chapter 6 Kisilevsky03
02/20-02/24	Perception (cont), Cognition and Emotion	Chapters 6 & 7 Mather04; Colcombe03
02/27-03/03 (no class 03/03)	Cognition (cont) Summary 1: due 03/03	Chapters 7 & 8
03/13-03/17	Memory & Information Processing	Chapter 8 Simcock02
03/20-03/24	Memory & Information Processing (cont)	Chapter 8
03/27-03/31	Exam 2 03/27 Language and education	Chapter 10 Cimpian07
04/03-04/07	Language & Education (cont) Intelligence and creativity	Chapters 10 & 9 Protzko13
04/10-04/14	Intelligence and creativity Alzheimer's Disease	Chapter 9 AlzheimersDiseaseNIHFactSheet
04/17-04/21	Summary 2: due date 04/17 Alzheimer's Disease	

04/24 (10:00-11:50 am)	Section 01 Exam 3	
04/26 (10:00-11:50 am)	Section 01 Exam 3	