

**PSY 364-04 - Life-Span Developmental Psychology**  
**Online Class**  
**Winter 2023**

**Instructor:** Courtney Kowalczyk, Ph.D. Phone: 616-331-2195 (Psych. Dep.)  
Office: ASH 2110  
E-mail: [kowalcou@gvsu.edu](mailto:kowalcou@gvsu.edu) (Preferred Communication Method)

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

**Instructor Communication:**

Email is my preferred form of communication as I do not have a designated phone on campus. 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 student hours if you have any questions/concerns that may require a lengthy response.

**Class Attendance:**

Since this class is presented in an online asynchronous manner, we will not hold mandatory formal meetings each week. However, students are encouraged to attend student hours in order to address any questions and to discuss each’s week content. Your participation in weekly required online activities and assignments will count as your attendance for the week. Students are responsible for checking Blackboard regularly for announcements and class material.

**Virtual Student Hours Via ZOOM:**

Fridays from 8:30am to 10:30am EST and by appointment (I’m also always happy to find a time to meet that works with both of our schedules if you cannot attend Student Hours)  
Zoom Meeting ID: 251 749 2298  
Zoom Passcode: GVSU2023

**Textbook:**

Santrock, J.W. (2022). *Essentials of life-span development* (7<sup>th</sup> ed.). McGraw Hill LLC.

Additional material will be posted on Blackboard and McGraw Hill Connect. You do NOT need to purchase the physical book from the bookstore. However, you will need to purchase the online version of the text and access to McGraw Hill Connect in order to successfully complete assignments for this course.

**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 and McGraw Hill Connect.

## 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 life-span 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 3 exams held throughout the semester, a final exam, weekly online quizzes, participation in McGraw Hill Connect activities, discussion boards, and other assignments given throughout the semester.

Exams: There will be four exams completed on the McGraw Hill Connect platform using the exam proctoring tool Proctorio (this is built into Connect). Students may use handwritten notes on the exams, but access to the textbook and other Connect materials will be prohibited. Each exam will consist of multiple-choice questions drawn from lectures, textbook readings, additional readings, class discussions, and videos. The exams are designed to assess your *comprehension and application* of the material, rather than superficial memorization. Each exam will have 100 questions and you will be given 2 hours to complete the exam.

Online Quizzes: Weekly online quizzes will be completed on the McGraw Hill Connect platform. They will consist of multiple choice, true and false, and/or short answer questions that will assess your knowledge on topics covered in the weekly material. Please note, you will not have a quiz during the weeks of an exam (Weeks 4, 8, and 12) since the material will be covered within the exam itself.

Discussion Board: You will participate in several discussion board activities throughout the semester. Please note that your primary response to the discussion board question(s) will be due by day 3 of the week (Wednesday by 11:59pm EST). You will then be required to respond to 2 classmates by the end of day 5 of the week (Friday by 11:59pm EST).

McGraw Hill Connect Activities: Each week you will have activities to complete within the McGraw Hill Connect platform. Activities may include chapter reading, Smartbook assignments, quizzes, exams, and Quest activities.

## Grading Scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	100-93
A-	92-90
B+	89-87

B	86-83
B-	82-80
C+	79-77
C	76-73
C-	72-70
D+	69-65
D	64-60
F	59 and Below

**Late Work:**

Since this course is presented in an asynchronous format, it will be extremely important for you to manage your time and complete assignments by the required due dates. Late work will not be accepted without prior approval from the instructor.

**Integrity of Scholarship and Grades:**

All academic work will be done by the student to whom it was assigned. If I have evidence of any form of academic dishonesty (cheating on an exam, giving or receiving information about what is asked in the exam, or any other form of cheating such as plagiarism), you will receive a failing grade in that activity and other consequences as dictated by GVSU policy. Plagiarism is presenting work, ideas or words that are not your own as though they were your own—this includes work of other students or work that is in a published source (the textbook, a journal article). To avoid plagiarism be sure to do your own work and put information in your own words. Use of quotes with appropriate reference to the original source from which you got the information or ideas is acceptable but less preferred than paraphrasing (with referencing of the source provided) in psychological writing. 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>

**How to Succeed in Psy 364:**

- Read textbook chapter(s) and complete weekly assignments on time.
- Prepare for exams well in advance. You should re-read your 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.

**Psych Friends:**

If you feel you could use some extra help/guidance/support in any academic domain or for your well-being, please consider scheduling an appointment with a mentor through Psych Friends. Psych Friends mentors are upper-level undergraduate peer mentors who are trained to provide support in many areas including: effective study and time management techniques, exam preparation and reflection skills, comprehension of the psychology and behavioral neuroscience major requirements, tips for engaging in the field, strategies for education continuation, methods for maintaining physical and mental health. Schedule an appointment here: <https://www.gvsu.edu/navigate>. Questions can be emailed to: [psychfriends@gvsu.edu](mailto:psychfriends@gvsu.edu).

**Covid Information:**

Please stay up to date with campus Covid-19 regulations. Use this link for further information: <https://www.gvsu.edu/lakerstogether/>

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

## TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>
<b>Week 1</b> 1/9	Course Overview & Introduction to Life-Span Human Development	Ch. 1
<b>Week 2</b> 1/16	Biological Beginnings	Ch. 2
<b>Week 3</b> 1/23	Infancy Part 1	Ch. 3
<b>Week 4</b> 1/30	Infancy Part 2 <b>Friday 2/3/23 to Monday 2/6/23 Exam #1 (Ch. 1, 2, 3, 4)</b>	Ch. 4
<b>Week 5</b> 2/6	Early Childhood Part 1	Ch. 5
<b>Week 6</b> 2/13	Early Childhood Part 2	Ch. 6
<b>Week 7</b> 2/20	Middle and Late Childhood Part 1	Ch. 7
<b>Week 8</b> 2/27	Middle and Late Childhood Part 2 <b>Friday 3/3/23 to Monday 3/6/23 Exam #2 (Ch. 5, 6, 7, 8)</b>	Ch. 8
<b>Week 9</b> 3/6	<i>Spring Break</i>	<i>NA</i>
<b>Week 10</b> 3/13	Adolescence Part 1	Ch. 9
<b>Week 11</b> 3/20	Adolescence Part 2 & Early Adulthood Part 1	Ch. 10 & 11
<b>Week 12</b> 3/27	Early Adulthood Part 2 <b>Friday 3/31/23 to Monday 4/3/23 Exam #3 (Ch. 9, 10, 11, 12)</b>	Ch. 12
<b>Week 13</b> 4/3	Middle Adulthood	CH. 13 & 14
<b>Week 14</b> 4/10	Late Adulthood	CH. 15 & 16
<b>Week 15</b> 4/17	Death, Dying, and Grieving	CH. 17
<b>Final Exam (Ch. 13, 14, 15, 16, 17) to Be Completed Between 4/24/23 and 4/27/23 Online</b>		