

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

LIFE SPAN DEVELOPMENT

PSY 346 ONLINE COURSE SYLLABUS; SUMMER 2025

This syllabus is subject to change. Changes (if any) will be announced via Blackboard.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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Email is the best way to get in contact with me.

Please put “**Psych 364**” in the subject line of your email. I will respond to emails within 1 business day. Please make an online office hours appointment with me if you have any questions/concerns that may require a lengthy response (see link under Office Hours to book an appointment).

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00am to 11:00am via Zoom

You must make an appointment at

<https://tessajordan.youcanbook.me>

After booking an appointment, click here to access the

Zoom Office Hours link:

<https://gvsu-edu.zoom.us/j/98228700387?pwd=Y1J0RVhsZ05vOWVvWDFIS3RnOE0zQT09>

COURSE INFORMATION

Prerequisite:

An introductory psychology course (Psych 101 or the equivalent), or HNR 234.

Format:

Asynchronous: You can watch the video lectures and complete course work each week, online at a time that is convenient for you, however, you must submit assignments by their due dates and take online exams during specific date ranges (see course schedule below).

Webpage:

This class will be administered via GVSU's Blackboard system (BB); <http://lms.gvsu.edu>.

Blackboard will contain ALL pertinent course information including grades, online lecture videos, lecture outlines, announcements, Connect reading assignments, assignments, and exams. Students are responsible for all information provided via Blackboard. The full, detailed description of all assignments, exams, and due dates will be found in Blackboard. **Use of Blackboard is integral to this course and you must log on a few times each week** in order to complete course requirements and to receive important announcements and updates about course content.

If you experience technical problems with Blackboard, contact the help desk by email or phone - helpdesk@gvsu.edu or 616-331-3513. The help website is <http://www.gvsu.edu/it/learn/>

Required Equipment (owned or accessible):

- Reliable high-speed internet access
- Computer with a sound card and speakers and operating system that meets current Blackboard browser requirements (Windows 7 or above, OS 10.10 or above)
- Computer microphone built in or external (most laptops have a microphone)
- Computer camera - built in or external (most laptops have a camera)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an overview of physical, cognitive, emotional, and social development across the human lifespan. We begin with an introduction to the study of human development then proceed to cover the developmental periods of infancy, early childhood, middle childhood, adolescence, adulthood and late adulthood. Classes will consist of video lectures, multimedia presentations, assignments, and exams.

Course Objectives:

- 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.

EXAMS

Two Exams (50 questions each, 50 points each) **and one Final Exam** (100 questions, 100 points) will be given covering material presented in the lectures and the text.

Exam 1 & 2 are noncumulative. The Final Exam is cumulative. All three Exams will consist of objective questions in multiple choice format. Exams will be administered during a **5 day time window, Friday 8:00am to Tuesday 9:00pm ET** (see schedule below). You will have 75 minutes from the time you start Exam 1 and Exam 2. You will have 150 minutes from the time you start the Final Exam.

Working with the provided weekly lecture reviews will help you prepare for the two Exams and Final Exam.

Respondus Lockdown and Monitor

Exams will be taken online, accessed via **BlackBoard**, and will require Respondus Lockdown and Monitor. The software allows for fair, secure tests by preventing students from accessing other programs and ensuring that student knowledge is being validly measured. It's best to think of this software as a way to simulate the experience of students taking a proctored exam in a regular classroom—where students cannot look at notes or communicate questions and answers with each other—but from the location of the student's choice.

Download and Install link:

<https://download.respondus.com/lockdown/download.php?id=936312756>

Tips for taking an online exam:

- Ensure you're in a location where you won't be interrupted
- Turn off all other devices (e.g. tablets, phones, second computers) and place them outside of your reach
- Clear your desk or workspace of all external materials not permitted - books, papers, other devices
- Remain at your computer for the duration of the test
- To produce a good webcam video, do the following:
 - Ensure your computer or device is on a firm surface (a desk or table). Do NOT have the computer on your lap, a bed, or other surface where the device (or you) are likely to move
 - If using a built-in webcam, avoid readjusting the tilt of the screen after the webcam setup is complete
- Take the exam in a well-lit room, but avoid backlighting (such as sitting with your back to a window)

CONNECT READING ASSIGNMENTS

Required Course Text: This course is participating in **GVSU Save program**. Your required course materials will be available prior to the first day of class through your BlackBoard account. You will be charged for the course materials via your GVSU student account and a “GVSU SAVE Charge” will appear on your student bill. However, if you decide you don’t want to participate, you will need to Opt-Out of the program and be sure you obtain the material on your own. To Opt-Out just click on the link in your BlackBoard course page and follow the instructions. **YOU MUST OPT-OUT BY MIDNIGHT ON FRIDAY, JULY 8th.** Your student account will be refunded if you Opt-Out by this date.

In this course we will use Santrock, J. W. (2018). *A Topical Approach to Life-Span Development, 11th Edition*. McGraw Hill Publishers but not in the form of a printed textbook. Instead, you will have access to a digital version of the book on the McGraw-Hill Education Connect® online. Connect uses technology that adapts content to your skill level to make more-efficient use of your study time and create a more-effective reading experience. See info under Connect Reading Assignments for more info on how to access the required e-book and how to complete weekly Connect Reading Assignments.

You will have the opportunity to complete Connect Reading Assignments throughout the semester, each is worth 1 or 2 points for a total of **35 points**. First, you need to register for Connect. Then you can access the weekly Connect Reading Assignments from Blackboard.

Assignments will open each Friday at 5:00pm ET and will close the following Friday at 5:00pm ET.

There are no make-up opportunities for Connect Reading Assignments. Late Assignments are not accepted and will receive a zero.

Register for Connect

- Click on the first Connect Reading Assignment - found on BB in Week 1
- Create a new account or login with an existing Connect account.
- Use your GVSU username and GVSU email password when registering.

Once you have registered for Connect, **access all Connect assignments from Blackboard.**

Please note: After you register, you will have the option to purchase a low-cost print-version of the text through Connect. This is optional. If you choose to purchase a copy, a full-color, loose-leaf version will be shipped to you.

Connect Technical Support: If you are having trouble registering for or accessing Connect, please contact McGraw-Hill Education’s Customer Support. Live chat, email, and phone support are available 7 days a week. **Website:** www.mhhe.com/support | **Phone:** (800) 331-5094 **Hours (EST)**

ASSIGNMENTS

You will have the opportunity to complete **5** homework assignments throughout the semester, each worth 10 points for a total of **50 points**.

These assignments will require you to apply principles that have been covered in online lectures. You will be given instructions for each homework assignment on Blackboard

Homework Assignment will be due Fridays by 5:00pm ET, submitted via Blackboard.

There are no make-up opportunities for Homework Assignments. Late Homework Assignments are not accepted and will receive a zero.

GRADING

Exams 1 and 2 are worth 50 points (2X50=100), The Final Exam is worth 100 points, Connect Reading Assignments are worth 35 a total of points, and Assignments are worth a total of 50 points. Thus, the total number of points for the class is 285 ***Grades will not be curved.*** Based on your cumulative percent of points earned, the following grades will be assigned:

<u>Percent</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>
94%-100%	A	77%-79%	C+
90%-93%	A-	74%-76%	C
87%-89%	B+	70%-73%	C-
84%-86%	B	67%-69%	D+
80%-83%	B-	64%-66%	D
		< 64%	F

****If your grade is at the .5 mark, I will round up (e.g., 235.5 will be rounded up to 236). I will not adjust your grade in any other way. Please do not ask at the end of the semester.**

HOW TO SUCCEED IN THIS COURSE

- **Self-Management is Key:** Online courses require perseverance, self-discipline, self-motivation, and the ability to work independently – more so than face-to-face on-campus classes. Make sure to:
 - Log onto Blackboard at least 4 to 5 times per week to check announcements and interact with course material.
 - Stay organized and track of due dates.
 - Plan weekly study times and stick to a schedule.

Plan on spending roughly **20 per hours per week** on this course. Approx. 7 hrs watching video lectures, 2 hrs completing assignments, 5 hrs completing reading assignments, and 5 hrs prepping for exams.

- **Read!** Complete the Connect Reading Assignment associated with each lecture *before* the lecture is given. This will provide you with a broader context for understanding the material presented in lecture.
- **Take Good Notes:** Fill-out your Lecture Outline, take additional notes and make note of examples given in lecture. The Lecture Outlines are intended as a guide only. **Filled-in Lecture Outlines alone will not provide you with all the necessary material to succeed in this course. Additional lecture notes will be essential when you study for the exams.**
- **Turn in all Assignments on time.** Late Assignments receive a 0. Missing one homework assignment will substantially lower your grade in the course.
- **Prepare for Exams Well in Advance.** You should re-read your lecture notes each day. You should work with the Weekly Lecture Review each week. Make flashcards, re-write notes, talk it over with a friend/classmate, etc. If you wait until the last minute to begin preparing for an exam, you are unlikely to perform as well.
- **Communicate with me!** *Email me* or make an appointment to meet with me on Zoom if you need to discuss anything pertaining to this course. *I enjoy meeting and talking to students!*

COURSE POLICIES

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

Accommodation of Learning Disabilities/Special Needs: Disability: If you have a learning, physical or other disability that would impact your ability to master the material in this course and/or take the exams as described above, please contact GVSU's Disability Support Services (DSS) at 616-331-2490 or <http://www.gvsu.edu/dsr/> to arrange for special accommodations.

Withdrawal: In accordance with University regulations, students withdrawing by July 29th 5:00pm will be assigned a grade of W (withdrawal). Students withdrawing after the deadline to withdraw will be assigned a letter grade based on their performance in the class. *Note: It is your responsibility to drop yourself from this class.*

Incomplete: Under special circumstances, a grade of Incomplete (I) can be granted. See me as soon as possible to arrange this and provide me with written documentation of why the course could not be completed. Note that an Incomplete grade must be completed by the end of the next academic semester, or is automatically converted to an F. An Incomplete will not be given for falling behind in the course or wanting to repeat the course for a better grade.

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.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Meijer Writing Center: To assist you with any writing project, <http://www.gvsu.edu/wc/> or Call 331-2922.

SASC Tutoring Center: SASC Tutoring Center can assist with most courses and academic writing assignments. Visit <http://www.gvsu.edu/tc/> for the most current information on services, hours, and locations.

Employment Options for Psych Majors: <https://www.gvsu.edu/psychology/employment-options-for-psychology-majors-228.htm>

Guardian Mobile Safety App: Creates a two-way connection between you and the campus police anywhere on campus. Find out more at www.gvsu.edu/gvpd/guardain.

GVSU Counseling Center: no cost to currently registered GVSU students. Seminars and events, online self-help tools, and consultation/referral are just a few of the additional services we provide to the GVSU community. <https://www.gvsu.edu/counsel/>

Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship (OURS): provides support for undergraduates to pursue the research and creative practice in their discipline. <https://www.gvsu.edu/ours/>

Study Abroad: <https://www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad/> There are programs in every region of the world!

Career Center: Interested in exploring careers and majors? Interested in finding an Internship or job? Need help with your resume and cover letter? Contact GVSU's Career Center <https://www.gvsu.edu/careers/>

Course Schedule

Date	Lecture #	Lecture Topic	Connect Reading Assignment	Homework
Week 1		Review Syllabus / BB Ultra, Connect, & Respondus	1. Connect Orientation Video	
	1a	Introduction to Developmental Science	2. Intro	
	1b	Developmental Theories	3. Theories	
	1c	Research Methods	4. Research Methods	HW #1
Week 2	2	Prenatal Development	5. Biological beginnings	HW #2
	3a	Infant Brain and Motor Development	6. Motor dev & 7. Barin dev	
	3b	Infant Perceptual Development	8. Sensation and perceptual dev	
	3c	Infant Cognitive Development	9. Infant cog dev	
Exam 1. Lectures 1-3. Opens Friday 4th at 8:00am, closes Tuesday 8th at 9pm EDT				
Week 3	4a	Infant Socioemotional Development	10. Emotional dev	
	4b	Attachment Theory	11. Attachment	
	5	Early Childhood Cognitive Development	12. Info processing	
	6a	Self-Concept & Gender Development	13. Self dev & 14. Gender dev	HW #3
Week 4	6b	Parenting Styles	15. Parenting	HW#4
	7	Cognitive Development in Middle Childhood & Adolescence		
	8	Developmental Psychopathologies		
	9	Moral Reasoning	16. Moral reasoning dev	HW #5
Exam 2. Lectures 4-9. Opens Friday July 18th 8:00am, closes Tuesday the 22nd at 9pm EDT				
Week 5	10	Adolescent Development	17. Identity and personality dev	
	11	Emerging Adult Development		
	12	Adult Biosocial Development	18. Biological aging	
	13	Cognitive Development in Late Adulthood	19. Info processing	
Week 6	14	Neurocognitive Disorders NCD	20. Cog changes late adulthood	
	15	Socioemotional Development in Late Adulthood	21. Aging and the social world	
FINAL EXAM				
	100 points total. 50 questions from lectures 1-9 and 50 questions from lectures 10-15			
	Opens Friday August 1st 8:00am, closes Tuesday August 5th at 9pm ETD			