

Dr. Jerri Edwards **Office:** MH 329 **Phone:** 824-2318 **Email:** edwardjd@uah.edu
Please leave detailed voice mail messages. You may call my voice mail at anytime.

Office hours: Mon, Wed 9:00 – 10:15 a.m., 1:30 – 2:15 p.m., or by appointment.

Required Text: Sigelman, C. K. (2003). **Life-Span Human Development.** 4th Edition. Thomson Learning.

Additional Reading: Additional readings may occasionally be assigned in class by the Instructor.

Course Format, Goals, and Learning Objectives: The course will consist of research study participation, lectures, videos, demonstrations, and class discussions. Students are expected to complete the assignments and readings before coming to class so that they may participate in meaningful discussion. **Please turn off all cell phones, pagers and watch alarms during class-time.**

In line with the goals for general education requirement courses, this course aims to stimulate intellectual curiosity, increase critical thinking skills, improve abilities in written communication, increase understanding of human behavior, and increase knowledge of varying cultures.

At the end of this course, through participating in research studies, completing assignments, learning from class lectures, participating in class discussions, reading the text and viewing of videos you should be able to:

- Explain major theories and perspectives in Developmental Psychology
- Understand different Developmental Psychology research methods.
- Apply psychological principles to social issues (including education), public policies, and everyday problem solving
- Recognize and respect human diversity
- Explain how individual differences influence beliefs, values, and interactions
- Understand how ethnocentric attitudes affect self and others
- Recognize the necessity of ethical behavior in psychology research and be familiar with guidelines for the ethical treatment of human and non-human research participants.
- Demonstrate the ability to read and accurately summarize scientific literature.
- Recognize, develop, defend and criticize arguments and persuasive appeals.
- Use critical thinking skills to evaluate the credibility of research findings.
- Seek and evaluate scientific evidence for making psychological claims.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of conclusions derived from research

These skills will be evaluated through quizzes, homework assignments and exams.

Month	Day	Subject	Text	Assignments Due
August	30	Introduction, Understanding Life-Span Human Development	1	
September	1	Introduction Theories of Human Development	1 pp. 490-495	
	3	LAST DAY TO ADD COURSE		
	6	LABOR DAY - NO CLASS		
	8	Theories of Human Development	2	

	13	Theories/The Genetics of Life-Span Development	3	Your cohort LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITH REFUND
	15	The Genetics of Life Span	3	
	20	Early Environmental Influences on Life-Span Development	4	Quiz (Chs. 1-3)
	22	Early Environmental Influences	4	
	27	The Physical Self	5	
	29	Exam 1	Chs 1-5, pp. 490,495	
October	4	Perception	6	
	6	Perception	6	
	11	Cognition & Language	7	Kotulak – Keeping the Brain Sharp as We Age
	13	Cognition & Language	7	
	18	Language & Early Experience	pp. 249-259	
	20	Language & Early Experience	pp. 249-259	
We are midway through the semester. You should have at least 5 research credits at this point!				
	25	Learning & Information Processing	8	Quiz (Chs. 6,7, pp. 249-259)
	27	Learning & Information Processing	8	
		Self Conceptions and Personality	11	
November	1	Self Conceptions and Personality	11	Piaget Meets Santa Claus
	3	Exam 2	Chs 6-8, 11, pp. 249-259	
	8	Gender Roles & Sexuality	12	
	10	Gender Roles	12	LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW
		Social cognition/Moral Dev -	13	
	15	Social cogniton/Moral Dev	13	
	17	Attachment & Social Relationships	14	Quiz (Chs. 12-14)
	22	Attachment & Social Relationships	14	
		The Family	15	
	24	THANKSGIVING NO CLASS		
	29	The Family	15	Death & Dying
December	1	Death & Dying	17	
	6	Exam 3	Chs 12-15, 17	
	8	Review/Grades		
3:00 – 5:30	13	Comprehensive Final Exam		All Material Previously Covered

Attendance Policy: It is in your best interest to attend each class session. If you miss a class it is your responsibility to get lecture notes from a fellow classmate. Class time and the text readings will be complimentary, not overlapping. You are responsible for all text chapters listed on the syllabus, handouts, **and**

material presented in class including videos. Should you have questions over text readings, please ask the instructor to explain in class.

Research Participation. Because research is an integral part of the discipline of psychology, it is important that students learn about the methods, tools, and ethics of psychological research. Therefore, you will earn five percent of your grade by participating in research related activities. You must collect 10 research points by participating in activities outside of the classroom. These include participating in experiments, viewing videos and answering a short quiz, or reading the selected articles on reserve at the library and successful completion of the reading quiz. **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE END OF THE SEMESTER TO OBTAIN THESE CREDITS.** Contact Marcy McFarlin if you have questions. Her office is MH136. Her phone number is 824-4590 and her e-mail is [mcfarlm@uah.edu]. This requirement will help you to recognize the necessity of ethical behavior in psychology research and be familiar with guidelines for the ethical treatment of human and non-human research participants.

Homework Assignments: There will be four homework assignments each worth 10 points. Two “on your own” (OYO) homework assignments, “Your Cohort” and “Death & Dying” will be available on the class website. These assignments require you to reflect upon your own experiences that relate to class topics. One article, Kotulak’s “Keeping the Brain Sharp as We Age”, and questions about the article will be on the website. Piaget Meets Santa Claus is a critical thinking and writing assignment. The details of which will be on the course website. Please note, **do not wait until the last minute to complete the homework assignments.** Particularly do not wait until the last minute for the assignments, “Your Cohort” and “Death and Dying”. These assignments require you to interview others and possibly do some internet or library research. Also, you may have questions about the assignments that you will need to ask the instructor before the due date. No handwritten assignments will be accepted.

Homework assignments are due on the scheduled day **at 2:20**. These assignments are worth 10 points each. Two points will be deducted from each assignment per class period of lateness. The maximum late penalty is 6 points. You may turn in homework assignments early if you wish. If you copy homework from another student, you will receive a 0. **No homework assignments will be accepted after December 8th, the final regular class period.**

Exams: Three exams and one comprehensive final will be given during the semester. Each exam is worth 50 points. The exams will cover material presented in class (including demonstrations and videos) as well as the assigned readings. The exam dates are tentative, it is your responsibility to find out about any changes should you be absent. The comprehensive final will be composed of questions from the three regular exams as indicated to you in class. Exams will mostly include multiple choice, but may also have short answer, fill in-the-blank questions, or true-false questions. I recommend practicing with the study guide to help you prepare for the exams. **No exams will be handed out after 2:40 a.m. on test day. If you are taking the exam, you must arrive to class on time.**

Make up exams will not be given. It is highly suggested that you plan to take all of the exams in case extenuating circumstances arise that prevent you from being in class for a scheduled exam. You will be allowed to drop your lowest exam score.

No credit will be given for homework that has been copied or paraphrased from another student’s work or from a textbook or research article. **Do your own work.** No credit will be given for homework assignments that are

plagiarized. Write all answers **in your own words**. If you absolutely must quote directly, do so sparingly and use quotation marks. “plagiarize – to take ideas, writings, etc. from another and offer them as one’s own” (Webster’s New World Dictionary, 2nd Edition. p. 456). If you quote any part of someone else’s writing without using quotation and acknowledging the source, you are plagiarizing. If you answer a question from a homework assignment with a direct quote from a research article, you will not receive credit for that answer. You must write answers in your own words to demonstrate understanding of the concepts.

Quizzes: Quizzes that cover text material will be given in class. These quizzes are given to encourage you to keep current with your textbook reading. Up to 3% extra credit (1 1/2 points) may be added to your next regular exam for correctly answering all of the quiz questions. Each quiz will contain 3 short-answer questions worth 1% (1/2 point) each. If you cheat on a quiz you will lose the privilege to receive any type of extra credit for the entire course.

Generally, I try to return all homework, quizzes and exams to you within one class period, but always within one week.

Grading:

Your best three test grades will be added together and are worth 75% of your grade (150 points). Your four homework assignments will be added together and are worth 20% of your grade (40 points). Your research participation credits will be worth 5% of your grade (10 points). Add up your total points (three best test grades [*including any extra credit*], four homework assignments, research credits) and divide by 2 for your final grade.

Grades will be distributed as follows: A - 90 - 100%, B - 80 - 89%, C - 70 - 79%, D - 60 - 69%, F - 0 - 59%.

Miscellaneous Information: If you are having personal difficulties, extended illness, problems with this course, exams, or assignments, please contact me.

The above schedule and procedures of this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances. Any changes will be explained in class by the Instructor. It is your responsibility to find out about any changes should you be absent from class.

PSI CHI – Psi Chi, the psychology honor society, promotes psychology at UAH through activities, research, and travel to professional conferences. For more information about Psi Chi, contact the society president, Trish Brown (uahpsichi@yahoo.com) or the faculty advisor, Dr. Sandra Carpenter (carpens@uah.edu).