

**College of Arts & Sciences  
Department of Psychology  
Oakland University**

***PSY 2250, Introduction to Life-Span Development, 4 Credits, Winter 2018*  
(CRN #12103)**

**Instructor:** Tina Meyer, Ph.D.

**E-mail:** [meyer23@oakland.edu](mailto:meyer23@oakland.edu)

**Office Hours:** Online, by phone, or in person: By appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Lifespan Developmental Psychology (PSY 225) is a survey of the principal cognitive, social, and behavioral processes that operate across the life-span. This class satisfies the General Education requirements in the Knowledge Application area.

**Course Prerequisites:** PSY 100

**Required Text(s):** Sigelman and Rider, *Life-Span Human Development (9th Edition)*, 2017. (MindTap is not required)

**OUTCOMES & OBJECTIVES**

**General Education Learning Outcomes:** On completion of this course the student will demonstrate:

1. The ability to evaluate and apply knowledge from a field outside of the student's major in problem-solving.
2. Knowledge of the personal, professional, ethical, and societal implications of these applications.

**Cross-Cutting Capacities:** Critical thinking

**Course Objectives (derived from American Psychological Association guidelines):**

1. Characterize the nature of psychology as a discipline.
2. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding representing appropriate breadth and depth in selected content areas of psychology: theory and research representing general domains, the history of psychology, relevant levels of analysis, overarching themes, and relevant ethical issues.

**WHAT TO EXPECT FROM ONLINE LEARNING IN THIS COURSE**

**Course Structure & Introduction**

This is the online version of our traditional face-to-face lecture course on Life-Span Development. This course will be conducted in what is described as an asynchronous fashion, i.e., the students and the instructor need not be in the same place at the same time. This means that you may "attend" class when and where you want thus giving you more flexibility in managing the other responsibilities of your lives. Enrolling in a class such as this will give you

the opportunity to work with "cutting edge" learning resources, but it will also subject you to the periodic frustrations encountered with new technologies.

- **Required Personal Skills & Resources**
  - Access to a working computer with reliable internet access and the most up-to-date version of your favorite web browser (Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, etc.). Use of smartphones and tablets for completion of assignments, quizzes, and exams is NOT recommended
  - Online access to Moodle, which is where all course content can be found and all course requirements will be completed. You can access Moodle at <http://moodle.oakland.edu> . Once there, you will need your NETID username and password to login.
  - A moderate level of computer and internet proficiency, with an ability to troubleshoot basic computer problems
  - Sufficient self-motivation and self-discipline to complete assignment and turn them in on time
  - Patience and flexibility in the face of technical difficulties
- **Expectations of Participants—As a student in this class, you are expected to:**
  - Ensure that your computer is compatible with Moodle
  - Have a back-up to make sure that all course requirements (assignments, quizzes, exams, forum posts, etc.) are submitted on time in the event that your computer crashes or your internet connection is down/lost
  - Be aware of all course requirements (assignments, quizzes, exams, forum posts)
  - Be an active participant in the course by:
    - Logging into the course several times per week or more
    - Completing and submitting all course requirements before the deadline passes
      - ***Except in very extenuating circumstances (and with proper documentation), I will not open any missed assignments after the deadline has passed. This includes missed exams.***
    - Participating in course discussions within the Chapter Discussion forum
    - Contacting me with questions or feedback about the course or course material when they arise
    - Treating classmates and the instructor with respect
    - Putting forth your best effort and acting with a high level of personal integrity
- **Expectations of the Instructor—As the Instructor in this class, you can expect me to:**
  - Login to our Moodle course several times per week
  - Have course material available to you when you need it
  - Moderate forum discussions
  - Respond to your questions in a timely manner
  - Grade your assignments and coursework within a reasonable timeframe

### **Contacting Me**

Email is the best way to contact me ([meyer23@oakland.edu](mailto:meyer23@oakland.edu)). I will make every possible effort to reply to email questions within 24 hours. If I am out of town and will not have access to a computer for more than 24 hours, I will try to let the class know in advance. If 24 hours pass and

I have not responded to an email, please assume that I did not receive your original message and resend.

If any issue cannot be discussed or resolved via email, we can arrange a telephone conference or an in- person meeting.

I do not require any on-campus meetings for the class as a whole in this course, however, I can make such meetings available if there is a demand from multiple students. I also teach this course on campus, so if at any point in the semester you are having difficulty with the material, please feel free to contact me about sitting in on my campus lectures.

### **Technical Assistance**

In the event that you are having trouble with Moodle, I recommend that you contact e-Learning & Instructional Support (e-LIS). They are the experts when it comes to technical assistance and will be able to help you troubleshoot any problems far better than I can. They can be reached

- By phone: 248-805-1625
- Or Online (where you can submit a help ticket):  
<http://www2.oakland.edu/elis/help.cfm?lms=2>

### **UNIVERSITY POLICY & GUIDELINES**

- **Appropriate Academic Conduct:** Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner conducive to an environment of academic integrity and respect for the educational process and the safety and well being of all members of the community. Full adherence to the Student Code of Conduct is expected. Violations of this code, or any suspicion that a violation has occurred (e.g., cheating, plagiarism) will be reported to the Dean of Students for academic review. In the event that the academic review board determines that an act of misconduct has been committed, the student responsible for the misconduct will receive a failing grade in this course, as well as any other sanctions deemed appropriate by the committee. ***THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS.*** Students found guilty of academic misconduct by the Academic Conduct Committee may face suspension or permanent dismissal. You can find and read the Code of Academic & Student Conduct here:
  - <http://www2.oakland.edu/deanofstudents/handbook/conduct.cfm>
- **Add/Drops & Incompletes:** The University add/drop and incomplete grade policies will be explicitly followed. Incompletes will be granted only if deemed appropriate by the Instructor, and only after the student has made an appeal and submitted the appropriate paperwork for a grade of Incomplete.
- **Faculty Feedback:** As a student in this class, you may receive “Faculty Feedback” in your OU e-mail if you demonstrate any areas of potential concern that may impede your success in the class. Faculty Feedback typically occurs during weeks 2-5 of the Fall and Winter terms, but may also be given later in the semester and more than once a semester. A “Faculty Feedback” e-mail will specify the area(s) of concern and recommend action(s) you should take. Please remember to check your OU email account regularly as that is where it will appear.
- **Special Considerations:** Students with disabilities who may require special considerations should make an appointment with campus Disability Support Services

(DSS) and bring their needs to my attention at the start of the semester. DSS can be reached:

- By phone: 248-370-3266
- Online: [www.oakland.edu/dss](http://www.oakland.edu/dss)
- **Audio Recording Policy:** Students who wish to audio-record lectures may request permission to do so. These recordings may only be used for the purpose of personal study. Students may not share these recordings with other individuals without the consent of the professor. At the conclusion of the semester, students may request permission to keep these recordings if needed, otherwise it is expected that all audio-recordings will be deleted from all electronic recording and storage devices.
- **Veteran Support Services:** The office of Veteran Support Services (VSS) is responsible for giving support services to more than 300 veterans, service members, and dependents of veterans. VSS is staffed with personnel who are veterans and current or former students. Any student veteran or dependent of a veteran requiring assistance with navigating the Veterans Administration, understanding service-related benefits, or requires referrals to campus and community resources should contact one of the Veterans Liaisons. The office is located in 116 North Foundation Hall. Veteran Support Services can be reached:
  - By phone: 248-370-2010
  - Online: <http://wwwwp.oakland.edu/veterans/>

## **GRADING & GRADE COMPONENTS**

**Grade Calculation:** The breakdown of grades in this course is shown below:

- **Examinations:** 400 points (3 exams; total 50%)
- **Online Quizzes:** 175 points (Syllabus quiz worth 5 points; 17 chapter quizzes, each worth 10 points; 22% quiz total)
- **Journal Reflections:** 160 points (4 assignments, each worth 40 points; 20% total)
- **Engagement Points:** 70 points (8%)
- **Course Total:** 805 points (100%)

**Grading Scale:**

99-100	4.0	85-86	3.3	76	2.6	69	1.9	62	1.2
96-98	3.9	83-84	3.2	75	2.5	68	1.8	61	1.1
94-95	3.8	81-82	3.1	74	2.4	67	1.7	60	1.0
92-93	3.7	80	3.0	73	2.3	66	1.6	<60	0.0
90-91	3.6	79	2.9	72	2.2	65	1.5		
89	3.5	78	2.8	71	2.1	64	1.4		
87-88	3.4	77	2.7	70	2.0	63	1.3		

**GRADES IN THIS COURSE WILL BE BASED ON EVALUATIONS OF THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS:**

- **EXAMS:** You will take 3 exams for this course. You may take each exam only one time.
  - Exams are not group projects and are always to be completed independently of other students, including any assistance from other students.
  - **Exams 1 and 2 (100 points each)** are comprised of 60 multiple-choice questions each and have a time-limit of 70 minutes. They are each worth 100 points toward your final grade.
  - **Exam 3** for this class is made up two parts: Part 1 and Part 2. The questions from Part 2 are used to produce a report for the University Assessment Committee, and therefore must be kept separate from the questions in Part 1.
    - **Part 1 (100 points)** will cover material from Chapters 13-17. It is made up of 50 multiple choice questions and has a 60-minute time limit.
    - **Part 2 (100 points)** covers material from Chapters 1-17 and provides data for the University Assessment Committee on the performance of this General Education course. The questions in this part of Exam 3 are required for every student in the University who takes this course. Part 2 is made up of 50 multiple choice questions and has a time limit of 60 minutes.
  - Moodle will automatically close the exam when the time limit is up, regardless of your status on the quiz. You must submit your responses before time is up or your answers will not be saved.
  - Failure to take any exam before the termination date/time will result in a grade of 0 (zero) for that exam.
  - Exams are available for several days, with availability dates posted on Moodle. Because all exams are open for several days, exams will not be reopened *under any circumstance*.
  - See our Moodle webpage for a detailed explanation of how to take exams online.
  - **Computer or internet problems during your exam:** If you have computer or internet problems during an exam, and your exam responses are not transmitted via Moodle, you will be required to take a makeup exam *on campus*. There are no exceptions. If you choose to not take a makeup exam on campus, you will receive a score of 0 (zero) for the exam. You should contact me immediately if computer or internet problems arise during your exam.
  - **Make-up Examinations:** With the exception of the final exam, exams are available for 4 days. There are no makeup exams.
  
- **Chapter quizzes:** You will take 18 total quizzes for this class: 1 quiz on the content of the syllabus for this course and 17 chapter quizzes—one for each chapter that we cover. Each chapter quiz is made up of 20 multiple-choice questions and will have a time limit of 30 minutes. Each quiz will have a unique termination date to synchronize our activities. All quizzes are administered online.
  - **Syllabus Quiz:** You will be required to pass the syllabus quiz with a grade of 90% or better before you can proceed to the other quizzes. This syllabus quiz will be due the first week of classes before you can move onto the chapter 1 quiz. You can take the syllabus quiz as many times as necessary before the deadline until you receive the required 90% grade.
  - **Chapter Quizzes:** You may take each Chapter quiz only one time.
  - Failure to take a quiz before its termination will result in a zero grade for that quiz.

- Quizzes will not be reopened, and there are no “makeup” quizzes.
- See our Moodle webpage for a detailed explanation of how to take quizzes online.
- Please note the following:
  - Just as with exams, when the availability period ends for an exam or quiz (e.g., 11pm), you cannot work on the quiz beyond that time. At the closing-time, the quiz completely shuts down, regardless of how long you worked it or when you opened it.
  - Grades are electronically posted after the quiz is completed.
- **Journal Reflections:** You will write 4 short essays (journal reflections) for this course. Content will coincide with weekly course material. I will post a choice of reflection questions and you are to choose one and answer it completely, supporting your answer with information from our weekly readings. These should be no more than 4-5 paragraphs total in length. Grades for these essays will be based on your inclusion of all appropriate content and supporting detail to answer the question(s), as well as using proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation.
- **Engagement points:** Because this is an online course, the amount of discussion that can occur amongst those of us involved is limited. However, I expect you to actively be thinking about the material and to have questions and comments about various concepts throughout the semester. There will be a discussion board available on Moodle, entitled “Chapter Discussions”, to post your questions and comments regarding course content, theory, and application. You are required to demonstrate active participation in the course throughout the semester via the discussion board.
  - I will post information in this forum, including current events, research topics and findings, and videos that correspond to what we are discussing in a given week. I also will ask questions about the content to get you thinking about the course material in a practical and meaningful way. You can respond to these questions or give feedback of your own about the material as one way to earn engagement points.
  - Another way to earn engagement points is to begin a new thread within the Chapter Discussion forum in which you describe some new or information relevant to the course. Other students may use your post as a springboard for their discussion on your topic.
  - Your discourse will be evaluated on the basis of its *quality, thoughtfulness*, and *frequency*. Please note that *all* of these characteristics are important. That said, posting frequent comments that have no substance will not earn you full credit for this portion of the course. You should expect to make at least 1 post in the discussion forum per week. Points will be deducted from your grade in this area if your posts do not meet expectations in type and/or frequency. If you make 0 posts, your grade for this portion of the course will be 0.
  - Discussion boards are designed to encourage interaction between you and your classmates, and of course, between each of you and me. This system is not designed for you to share answers from quizzes or exams, nor is it to be used to critique, disparage, or talk about fellow students. Profanity is not allowed, and respect for classmates and their ideas must be exercised at all times.

### **OTHER USEFUL LINKS YOU WILL FIND ON OUR MOODLE COURSE PAGE**

- **Course Notes**—I post lecture notes on Moodle that discuss the content of the textbook. These include some typed notes that describe key aspects of the chapters in more detail. Careful reading and study of the textbook material should follow as you prepare for the online quizzes and examinations. I highly recommend reviewing the learning objectives for each chapter in preparation for quizzes and exams.
- **Practice quiz and exam**—I have posted 1 practice quiz and one practice exam on Moodle to help you become familiarized with my testing style. You may take this quiz and exam once, and access the questions with your responses as many times as you wish. The points for these practice assessments are NOT calculated into your grade. *I recommend that you preview each of the practice quizzes and exams before taking a real quiz or exam so you are familiar with how each is structured in Moodle. Any confusion over how the quizzes and exams work in Moodle that results in a mistake in how you complete or submit your responses is your responsibility and no additional attempts will be allowed for any quiz or exam.*
  - The practice quiz and exam only include material from a limited number of chapters. Actual exams will cover more than a single chapter, as outlined in the syllabus.

### **DETAILED CLASS SCHEDULE AND TOPICAL OUTLINE**

**You will find that specific deadline dates for all assignments, quizzes, and exams are listed here, as well as on our Moodle course page. Unless otherwise specified here or on Moodle, the availability period for a course requirement ends at 11pm on the date listed. It is your responsibility to be aware of all deadlines and to complete your assignments on time.**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Topic</b>
1	1/3-1/6	1	Understanding Life-Span Human Development <b>Syllabus quiz due 1/6</b> <b>Quiz #1 due 1/6</b>
2	1/7-1/13	2, 3	Theories of Human Development Genes, Environment, & Development <b>Quiz #2 &amp; Quiz #3 due 1/13</b>
3	1/14-1/20	4	Prenatal Development & Birth <b>Quiz #4 due 1/20</b>
4	1/21-1/27	5	Health & Physical Development <b>Quiz #5 due 1/27</b> <b>Journal Reflection #1 due 1/27</b>
5	1/28-2/3	<b>Exam #1</b> 6	<b>Exam #1 (Ch 1-5) Due WED, 1/31 @11pm</b> Perception <b>Quiz #6 due 2/3</b>
6	2/4-2/10	7, 8	Cognition Memory & Information Processing

**Quiz #7 and #8 due 2/10**

7	2/11-2/17	9	Intelligence & Creativity <b>Quiz #9 due 2/17</b> <b>Journal Reflection #2 due 2/17</b>
	2/17-2/25		<b>MID-WINTER BREAK—No Assignments Due</b>
8	2/25-3/3	10, 11	Language & Education Self & Personality <b>Quiz #10 &amp; Quiz #11 due 3/3</b>
9	3/4-3/10	12	Gender Roles & Sexuality <b>Quiz #12 due 3/10</b> <b>Journal Reflection #3 due 3/10</b>
10	3/11-3/17	<b>Exam #2</b> 13	<b>Exam #2 (Ch 6-12) Due WED 11/8 @11pm</b> Social Cognition & Moral Development <b>Quiz #13 due 3/17</b>
11	3/18-3/24	14, 15	Attachment & Social Relationships The Family <b>Quiz #14 and 15 due 3/24</b>
12	3/25-3/31	16	Developmental Psychopathology <b>Quiz #16 due 3/31</b>
13	4/1-4/7	17	The Final Challenge: Death & Dying <b>Quiz #17 due 4/7</b>
14	4/8-4/14		<b>Journal Reflection #4 due 4/12</b> <b>Last day to make engagement point posts:</b> <b>Saturday, 4/14 @ 11pm</b>
15	4/15-4/21	<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>Parts 1 and 2 due Saturday, 4/21 @11pm</b> <b>This exam is available Saturday, 4/21, 7am- 11pm</b>