



Course Syllabus

DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

DEP 2004 / 80019 / FALL 2026

8/17/2026 – 12/10/2026

3 Credit Hours, 3 Contact Hours

No Pre- or Co-Requisites

Instructor Contact Information

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Office Hours: TBA
Response Time: 48 hours

taking place at different times in a person's life. Successful completion of DEP 2004 will result in the student's ability to correctly describe, analyze, and evaluate the concepts listed below.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Differentiate among the major theories, perspectives, issues, and trends in developmental psychology by describing the four main topical areas of the biopsychosocial model of human development, including the physical, cognitive, affective, and psychosocial domains
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the different stages in human development, from conception to death, by evaluating the physical, cognitive, psychosocial, and affective components of each stage.
3. Identify and explain the major characteristics and influences of important social, gender, and cultural principles on human development by defining and evaluating the major theories and principles underscoring human interaction in society
4. Apply critical thinking to classify the benefits and limitations of research methods, including the primary research

Division Chair

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Course Information

Catalog Description:

This course is a chronological, comprehensive study of the individual during which students investigate the various aspects of development

designs used to study age-related changes in human development.

5. Identify and characterize the end-of-life process and practices that individuals undertake when dealing with the care of the terminally ill and with the impending death of self or others.

Title: *Lifespan Development*

Textbook linked here:

<https://openstax.org/details/books/lifespan-development>

Primary Authors: Diana Riser, Rose Spielman, and David Biek

Publication date: Oct. 16, 2024 (Updated Apr. 23, 2026)

Publisher: OpenStax-Rice University

Licensing: Creative Commons – BY,NC,SA

Course Materials & Resources: Provided as a free online textbook

Delivery Method:

This course meets face to face. Course material, assignments, and announcements will be offered both during class and via Canvas as a supplemental approach to learning at the discretion of the instructor. Please make sure that you have access to a computer with a webcam and internet service, also in the event a change in course delivery is needed.

Student Expectations

In this course, communication and feedback will occur through various channels, including GCSC email, Canvas Inbox, Canvas Announcements, Canvas Discussions, Microsoft Teams or Zoom, assignment feedback, and instructor office hours. Review the statements below so that you understand the expectations for communication.

As a student at Gulf Coast State College, you are expected to:

- **Adhere to Course Guidelines:** Follow the guidelines detailed in the course syllabus, along with any additional instructions provided by the instructor. This includes understanding and complying with the course objectives, grading criteria, and academic policies.
- **Maintain Regular Contact:** Keep in touch with your instructor and classmates via your GCSC email or other designated communication channels. Regular contact helps clarify doubts, share ideas, and foster a collaborative learning environment.
- **Ensure that your GCSC student email account** is activated and that you check it regularly. You can call GCSC ITS Help Desk (850-913-3303) at any time if you have any technical problems or problems with your email account OR eLearning (Canvas).
- **Active Participation (See also Engagement and Participation Policy):** Engage actively in class discussions and submit assignments on time. Your active participation is crucial for your academic success and contributes to a vibrant learning community.

As your instructor, my commitment to you is to:

- **Provide Timely Feedback:** I will review and provide feedback on your assignments and submissions. My goal is to help you understand your strengths and areas for improvement, which is crucial for your academic growth.
- **Respond Via Canvas Inbox:** I understand the importance of clear and timely communication in addressing your questions and concerns. Therefore, I will respond to your emails or messages

within 24-48 hours during scheduled workdays, barring illness or emergencies. I also may not check email during holidays or weekends.

- **Post Regular Announcements:** To keep you updated and help you manage your time effectively, I will send out weekly reminders via announcements. These reminders will include important dates, upcoming assignments, and any changes to the course schedule.
- **Maintain Weekly Office Hours:** I will maintain regular weekly office hours, but I can also be available by appointment in person or via Zoom. This is to ensure I'm available for any questions or concerns that may come up.



Figure 1: College cat attending GCSC

Course Schedule (May be revised as needed)

Week	Dates	Monday	Wednesday
1	Aug. 17 & 19	Course Start Up Content; Chapter 1: Lifespan Psychology and Developmental Theories	Chapter 1 continued
2	Aug. 24 & 26	Chapter 2: Genetic, Prenatal, and Perinatal Health	Chapter 3: Phys & Cog Dev in Infants and Toddlers (0–3)
3	Aug. 31 & Sep. 2	Chapter 3 continued	Chapter 4: SocioEmot Dev in Infants and Toddlers (0–3)
4	Sept. 7 & 9	No class: Labor Day	Chapter 4 continued
5	Sept. 14 & 16	Test 1: Chapters 1–4	Chapter 5: Phys & Cog Dev in Early Childhood (3–6)
6	Sept. 21 & 23	Chapter 5 continued	Chapter 6: SocioEmot Dev in Early Childhood (3–6)
7	Sept. 28 & 30	Chapter 6 continued	Chapter 7: Phys & Cog Dev in Middle Childhood (7–12)
8	Oct. 5 & 7	Chapter 7 continued	Chapter 8: SocioEmot Dev in Middle Childhood (7–12)
9	Oct. 12 & 14	Chapter 8 continued	Test 2: Chapters 5–8
10	Oct. 19 & 21	Chapter 9: Phys & Cog Dev in Adolescence (12–18)	Chapter 10: SocioEmot Dev in Adolescence (12–18)
11	Oct. 26 & 28	Chapter 10: continued	Chapter 11: Phys & Cog Dev in Early Adulthood (18–29)
12	Nov. 2 & 4	Chapter 12: SocioEmot Dev in Early Adulthood (18–29)	Chapter 12: continued
13	Nov. 9 & 11	Test 3: Chapters 9–12	No class: Veterans Day
14	Nov. 16 & 18	Chapters 13 & 14: Phys, Cog & SocioEmot Dev in Middle Adulthood (30–59)	Chapter 15: Phys & Cog Dev in Late Adulthood (60+)
15	Nov. 23 & 25	Chapter 16: SocioEmot Dev in Late Adulthood (60+)	No class: Thanksgiving
16	Nov. 30 & Dec. 2	Chapter 17: Death, Dying, and Grieving (Capstone Discussion and Reflection)	Test 4: Chapters 13–16



Grading

GCSC Grading Scale

The following grading standards will be used in preparing the end of semester grades for this class:

Grade	Range
A	90% to 100%
B	80% to < 90%
C	70% to < 80%
D	60% to < 70%
F	0.01% to < 60%
I	0% to < 0.01%

Calculation of Grades

Coursework (specific content may be revised) will be calculated as follows:

- Chapter Exams (lowest score of four exams will be dropped) 30%
- Writing, Journals, Quizzes, Disc. Board & Other Assignments 25%
- Attendance 20%
- Final Exam (cannot be dropped) 25%
- Total 100%

Incomplete Grades

Grades of Incomplete in any Social Sciences course can only be assigned to students who have an emergency arise during the last two weeks of the course.

To receive an Incomplete, students must:

- Submit a **written request** to the instructor before the last face-to-face class meeting. For online courses, a written Incomplete request must be received no later than the week before the Final Exam period begins.
- Have completed no less than 60 percent of the course requirements and be passing the course at the time the request for an Incomplete is submitted.

Important Note: The Incomplete option provides 30 days from the date grades are due to make up any missing work; if work is not submitted during this period, the grade will automatically change to an “F.”

Course Policies

Accessibility Statement

Gulf Coast State College supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Prior to receiving accommodations, you must register with Student Accessibility Resources. Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the documented needs of the student. Please visit [GCSC's Student Accessibility Resource \(SAR\) webpage](#) to learn more. For information regarding the registration process, email sar@gulfcoast.edu or call 850-747-3243.

Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance and participation are significant factors that help to promote success in college. Students are expected to attend all class meetings of all courses for which they are registered.

Instructors will monitor attendance at the beginning of each semester. If you are not in attendance during this “No Show” period, you can be withdrawn from the course. Specifically, students NOT adhering to this policy will be reported to the college as a “No Show” on the course roster, which removes the student from the course. This action can have a negative impact on a student’s academic record, in addition to potential problems with any grants or loans one has acquired. A student email expressing intent to participate does not count as “participation”.

If your absences in a class become excessive, as stated in the course syllabus, I may contact you, indicating that further absences may result in your withdrawal from the course. Specifically, students whose attendance falls below 50% may be contacted regarding their participation in the course and reminded of the attendance expectations. Continued attendance below 50% places students at risk of administrative action. If attendance drops to 40% or below, I may withdraw a student from the course for excessive absences, in accordance with college policy, without the student's permission.

Attendance Guidelines

Regular attendance in this face-to-face course is expected. Course material, discussions, activities, and examples presented during class are integral to learning and may not be fully captured in readings or posted materials. Students are responsible for all content covered during class meetings, regardless of their presence or absence. I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences. Instead, all absences are treated consistently, reflecting the expectation that students manage their academic responsibilities while balancing other commitments. In the event of an absence, you should contact your instructor as soon as possible if the absence will impact your ability to submit work or your attendance going forward in the course.

Engagement and Participation Policy

Active engagement is essential to learning in this course and to the development of a meaningful academic community. For this reason, attendance, timely completion of coursework, and participation collectively account for 20% of the final course grade.

Participation includes contributing to discussions, engaging in activities, asking questions, and demonstrating thoughtful involvement with course material by completing assigned coursework. Participation may occur through speaking in class, collaborative work, or other forms of active involvement as outlined during the course.

Consistent engagement and participation also include submitting assignments by the posted deadlines. Timely submission demonstrates preparedness, accountability, and respect for the shared learning process. Late submissions will affect the attendance and participation portion of the course grade, even when the assignment itself is accepted for credit.

Assignment Guidelines

Each new module will “open” on Monday, 1200 am and will “close” on Sunday 1159 pm. All new, weekly content will be available when the modules open, and any assignments are all due no later than the following Sunday by midnight, unless otherwise stated.

Assignments **MUST** be typewritten (unless otherwise noted) and must be uploaded using one of these four file types: .doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf. Pictures of assignments OR handwritten assignments will not be accepted or graded. Moreover, submissions and files generated from a phone or from a device that uses a program not listed above will also not be accepted or graded.

All writing assignments requiring original work that is uploaded into a Canvas drop box will automatically be processed through the plagiarism software called Turnitin. Turnitin (TII) provides a score that indicates the degree to which the information in the submission matches information from millions of available sources. High TII scores indicate that large amounts of material have been taken from other sources. All TII scores are checked to ensure that proper and appropriate citations are used for material taken from another’s ideas, writings, theories, media, etc. In the event an assignment is found not to be properly cited, it will receive a zero. It is critical that students review their TII scores for each submission and make corrections or revisions. Canvas allows for multiple uploads into a drop box, so feel free to upload as many revisions as needed to address the problem.

There will be **no “individual-only” extra credit offered**; occasionally, I will offer extra credit opportunities for all students in a class. Extra credit **MUST** be submitted on time; there are no late submissions accepted for extra credit, and there are no exceptions.

However, on another important note, there is always an opportunity for any student to obtain additional points for an especially excellent, comprehensive, or insightful discussion post or written assignment.

Late Work Policies

I do accept late work (see below for semester test rules), but only within 4 weeks of the original due date; late work in the last month of the course must be turned in within 1 week of the due date to be eligible for credit. There are No Exceptions to this rule.

Additionally, late assignments can be penalized 5 points per day.

Regarding semester tests (5 per semester): If you miss a chapter exam, you will have the opportunity to make up ONE test during the semester to replace the zero you will receive for the missed test. The make-up test may consist of essay, short answer, true/false, or multiple-choice questions, or any combination thereof.

Important: A missed test MUST be made up within ONE week of the date of the missed test; there are no exceptions, unless an emergency has occurred; come talk to me then, in this case.

Withdrawal Policy

Two withdrawals are permitted per credit course. For a third attempt, a grade will be assigned, regardless of the final outcome. Please be concerned about withdrawals. When admitting students into certain programs, some universities may calculate withdrawals as grades. Withdrawal from a course may also have implications for financial aid. Subsequently, it is your responsibility to verify the effects of enrollment and/or withdrawal upon your financial assistance (financial aid, scholarships, grants, etc.). Within the first two weeks, text me the phrase I will not plagiarize for bonus points on your final exam. Please know, there are two kinds of withdrawals: student and administrative.

- *Student Withdrawal (W1)* - Students wishing to withdraw must complete the online Student Withdrawal Form before the scheduled withdrawal deadline as published in the College catalog. Student withdrawals initiated prior to the scheduled withdrawal deadline will be recorded as a grade of "W." The withdrawal deadline for an off-term or condensed term is one week after midterm.
- *Administrative Withdrawal (W2)* – A faculty member may withdraw a student up to the published withdrawal deadline for violation of the class attendance policy, in which case the student will receive a grade of "W." The withdrawal deadline for an off-term or condensed term is one week after midterm.
- Students cannot withdraw from developmental studies courses (college-preparatory classes) after the drop/add period without written permission from their instructor and/or their academic advisor.

Academic Integrity

Honest participation in academic endeavors fosters an environment in which optimal learning can take place and is consistent with the college's mission. Academic misconduct, including cheating or plagiarism, is destructive to the spirit of an educational environment. GCSC professors report every instance of student academic misconduct to the college for inclusion on the student's records. Most course syllabi include an academic honesty policy and the consequences for violating this policy. Familiarize yourself with course policies regarding authorized or unauthorized use of AI to avoid the pitfalls of academic dishonesty.

The following definitions will apply:

"Cheating"

includes but is not limited to use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; the acquisition without permission of tests or other academic materials belonging to a member of the College's faculty.

"Plagiarism"

includes, but is not limited to, the use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment, as well as the purchase of papers or projects. It can also include overuse of an editing program like Grammarly or submitting work written by an Artificial Intelligence (AI) generator like ChatGPT. Make certain to consult this course syllabus for your instructor's guidelines on AI material.

"Self-plagiarism"

occurs when a student submits the same or considerably similar document to fulfill requirements in different classes. For example, if a student submits a term paper in Religion that they originally wrote for an English class, this is self-plagiarism. Once a paper receives a grade in one class, it cannot be submitted again for another class.

"Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)"

is technology that uses machine learning to create new content, such as text, images, or code, based on user input. These systems are trained on vast amounts of data, including large language models and image or code generators. Common examples include ChatGPT, GitHub, Copilot, Google Gemini, Perplexity, and the Grammarly AI function.

Sanctions for incidents of academic misconduct, depending on the severity of the incident and/or its repetition, may range from receiving an F grade (or 0) for the test, assignment, or activity to failure of the course, to suspension or dismissal from the college.

Academic Integrity Policies

All written work submitted in this course must be the student's own original work.

1. **Academic Misconduct**

Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, submitting work created by another person or technology, falsifying information, or any other violation of academic integrity standards.

2. **Proper Citation Required**

Any ideas, facts, information, or wording obtained from another source must be properly cited using an accepted academic format such as APA or MLA. Any assignment containing in-text citations must also include a corresponding reference page (bibliography).

3. **Turnitin Similarity Scores**

Students are responsible for reviewing their Turnitin Similarity Report before submitting assignments. Any submission with a Turnitin similarity score above 20% may not be graded until revised and resubmitted.

5. **Sanctions**

Violations of this policy may result in penalties ranging from a zero on the assignment, test, or activity to failure of the course. Repeated or serious violations may result in additional disciplinary action, including suspension or dismissal from the program or college.

6. **Reporting**

As noted in the above section, all suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Chair of Social Sciences and the Dean of Student Affairs in accordance with college policy.

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

Prohibited Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

The use of AI-generated content is **strictly prohibited** in this course. This includes the use of AI tools for brainstorming, outlining, drafting, rewriting, paraphrasing, or generating responses. Examples include, but are not limited to, ChatGPT, Copilot, Grammarly AI, and similar technologies for assignments, research, and other coursework. Use of AI tools will be treated as a violation of academic integrity and will result in penalties, including a zero on the assignment and additional disciplinary actions as outlined in the college's academic integrity policy.

Why, You May Ask...

This policy is in place in these psychology courses because psychology emphasizes critical thinking, self-reflection, and the application of course concepts to personal experiences and real-life situations. Students are expected to demonstrate their own understanding of the material. Assignments are designed to evaluate your individual insights, interpretations, and growth as a learner. The use of AI-generated content bypasses this learning process and is therefore not permitted.

See the student handbook for further information. Students with questions about acceptable use should consult their instructor.

Classroom Recording

In accordance with federal and state privacy laws, students may record class lectures for their own personal educational use, in connection with a complaint to the college, or as evidence in internal or external legal proceedings. Students may not publish or upload the recordings or any components thereof without the knowledge and written permission of the faculty member. Failure to obtain permission to publish could lead to the students' having to pay damages, attorney fees, and court costs. For more information about what can be recorded, please see the guidelines in the GCSC Student Handbook.

Anti-Discrimination Policy

Gulf Coast State College does not discriminate against any person in its programs, activities, policies or procedures on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, national origin, marital status, religion, age, gender, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, disability, or veteran status. All questions or inquiries regarding compliance with laws relating to non-discrimination and all complaints regarding sexual misconduct or discrimination may be directed to Amanda Reed, Executive Director of Human Resources/Title II/504/Title IX Coordinator and Employment Equity Officer, Gulf Coast State College, 5230 W. US Highway 98, Panama City, FL 32401; 850-769-1551, ext. 3516. Rules, policies, fees, and courses described in this catalog are subject to change without notice.

Syllabus Policy

For any syllabus posted prior to the beginning of the term, the instructor reserves the right to make minor changes prior to or during the term. The instructor will notify students via e-mail and Canvas announcement when changes are made in the requirements, dates, or assignment points in the course.

Student Support Resources

Gulf Coast State College is committed to providing you with the resources you need for success as a student and beyond. View all the academic and student support resources provided at GCSC on the [Student Services web page](#).

Course Technology & Support

To successfully participate in this online course, students must have basic computer and digital information literacy skills and meet the following technology requirements:

- **Computer:** Up-to-date web browser that supports the Canvas learning management system; please refer to the system requirements for compatibility and information on using the Canvas app on mobile devices.
- **Internet Speed:** Minimum bandwidth of 8 Mbps upload/download speed to effectively engage in online activities and access multimedia.
- **Office 365 software:** Available for free download through GCSC Information Technology Services (ITS).

In the event a student encounters a problem with technology (for example, their computer breaks down), there are several places on campus where students have access to computers and printers, namely the library and the ATC.

If a scanned document is required for an assignment, scanning services are available through both the Library and the ATC. Because these resources are readily accessible, technical issues related to scanning or document preparation are not acceptable reasons for submitting work late.

If you need technical support, contact the ITS Help Desk, available 24/7 at (850) 913-3303.