

## PSY 238 Lifespan Development

**Instructor:** Caroline Kraft, Ph.D.

**Email:** [Kraftca3@msu.edu](mailto:Kraftca3@msu.edu)

**Office:** Psychology Building, Room 252B

**Office Hours:** Tues/Thurs 1pm to 3pm and by appt.

**Term:** Fall 2019

**Class Meeting Time:** MW 10:20-11:40am

**Class Location:** Natural Sciences, Room 128

**Graduate Teaching Assistant:** Zach Woessner

**Email:** [woessne4@msu.edu](mailto:woessne4@msu.edu)

**Office:** Psychology Building, Room 348

**Office Hours:** Tues 10:30am-12:00pm

### Course Overview

This course explores human development across the lifespan from conception to death. Students will learn about the physical, cognitive, and socioemotional changes that occur throughout human life, as well as important milestones that underlie typical development. Topics in this course are addressed using classic developmental psychology theories and research in the field. Topics in this course include prenatal development, language development, social skills and interpersonal relationships, identity formation, environmental influences on development, cognitive growth and decline, parenting, retirement, and dying.

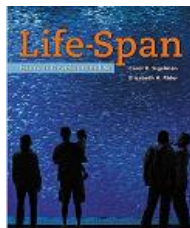
### Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Distinguish between key developmental psychology theories
- Apply developmental theories to everyday situations and relationships
- Explain the interplay of nature and nurture in human development
- Identify key markers and milestones in human development
- Explain the advantages and disadvantages of techniques used to study human development
- View current issues facing society from a developmental psychology perspective

### Materials

**Textbook:** Life-Span Human Development (9<sup>th</sup> Edition) by Carol Sigelman and Elizabeth Rider



ISBN-13: 978-1337100731

**Top Hat:** In this course, we will use Top Hat (<https://www.tophat.com>) during class. Therefore, you must purchase Top Hat if you have not done so previously. The join code for this course is **463101**. The pricing for Top Hat is below:

- One Term: \$26 (Choose this option if you do not expect any other instructor to use Top Hat in any of your other classes while you are at MSU.)
- Annual: \$38 (Choose this option if you will use Top Hat in other classes this academic year only.)
- Lifetime: \$75 (Choose this option if you expect to use Top Hat in other classes in the future while you are at MSU. If you choose this option, you will have access to Top Hat for the rest of your life.) More information about Top Hat student pricing can be found here: <https://tophat.com/educational-technology/pricing/>

You can use Apple or Android Smartphones, tablets, laptops, or text messaging to interact with the Top Hat system.

If you have a Top Hat account from a previous course, you can use the same account. An invitation will be sent to you by email, but if don't receive this email, you can register by visiting our course website:

**D2L:** You will turn in assignments and use the discussion board on D2L. I will use D2L to communicate with you and post grades and announcements. Please ensure that your contact information is current so that you receive all class-related emails. If you have trouble using D2L, you can contact the helpdesk. If you are unfamiliar with D2L, please complete the online tutorial: from the D2L page, click on help. A new screen will open up: click on Student Quick Start Guide. Please direct all technical questions to the D2L helpdesk at 517.355.2345 or 800.500.1554.

### **Course Components**

**Discussion Board:** The discussion board is on D2L. Each week you will see two discussion prompts pertaining to the material covered in lecture. You will choose one of the discussion prompts and answer each of the questions in the prompt. You are expected to post one original response to the discussion prompt, and at least two replies to other students' discussion posts. You are expected to respond politely and professionally to other students' posts. Expressing disagreement is fine, but inappropriate and/or disrespectful comments will not be tolerated. **Guidelines for Discussion Board posts are on D2L.**

**Reading Response Papers:** There are 10 short written homework assignments in this class. You will write a 1-2 page (double-spaced) reading response to 10 empirical or review articles that are relevant to the topics we discuss in class. **The articles are posted as PDF files on our D2L class page.** Only your 9 highest grades will count toward your final course grade. You will turn in your responses via the dropbox function in D2L. All grades and feedback will be posted on D2L. Assignments are graded on a 2- point scale. **All uploaded documents must be created in MS Word (.doc or .docx), Rich Text Format (.rtf), or**

as .pdf files. Documents that are created in other programs will not receive credit. Guidelines for reaction papers are posted on D2L.

*\*If you wish to dispute the grade you earned on a homework assignment, you must do so within 5 days (including weekends) of the date your grade and feedback were posted on D2L. There will be no exceptions. You are strongly encouraged to monitor your progress on a regular basis.*

**Top Hat :** This tool will be used in class to take attendance and track your understanding of information in the course. Each day, students will respond to three (or more) questions, at the beginning of class, the middle of class, and the end of class. Questions will be based on current and previous lecture material.

**Exams:** There will be four exams in this course (including the final). The first three exams will comprise 60 multiple choice questions. You will answer questions on a scan-tron form. The final exam is comprehensive, and it will comprise 100 questions.

#### Course Guidelines

- **The lecture material is more important than the book material for your success in this course.**  
This means you need to attend and participate in this class. Also, I will not include exam questions that were not covered in lecture. The book is a guide that will help you learn more about specific topics we discuss in class, but reading every page of the book is not necessary.
- **The lecture schedule will be modified as needed throughout the semester, but the exam dates will stay the same.**

#### Grading

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Points</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Points</u>
4.0	90% to 100%	2.0	70% to 74.9%
3.5	85% to 89.9%	1.5	65% to 69.9%
3.0	80% to 84.9%	1.0	60% to 64.9%
2.5	75% to 79.9%	0.0	Under 60%

## **Your weighted final grade in this course will be based on the following:**

Mid-term Exams (45%)

Final Exam (20%)

Reading Responses (15%)

Discussion Board Posts (10%)

Top Hat Questions (10%)

## **Course Policies**

### **Email**

Emails will be answered within 48 hours. Please do the following:

1. ALWAYS State in the subject line **PSY 238**
2. Make sure the answer to your question is not on the syllabus before emailing (please!)
3. Be specific in your email. If you have a question about an assignment, state the name of the assignment you are talking about.

### **Attendance**

Class attendance is not mandatory, but it is strongly recommended because your success in this course depends on learning the material that is covered in lectures, and TopHat questions are a portion of your grade. Exam attendance is mandatory. Makeup exams are only permitted in extremely extraordinary circumstances that adhere to university policies. Students arriving to take an exam AFTER other students have completed it will not be allowed to take the exam. This includes the Final Exam. It is your responsibility to be on time for all exams.

### **Use of Electronics in Class**

The use of electronics, such as laptops and Ipads, is permitted during class for academic purposes. When you use these devices for other purposes, it is distracting to other students. Phones should be silenced during class. Vibrate is acceptable, unless your phone vibrates repeatedly, in which case I will ask you to turn your phone off. Please do not text during class.

### **Academic Honor Policy**

Article 2.III.B.2 of the [Student Rights and Responsibilities \(SRR\)](#) states that "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." The Psychology Department adheres to the policies on academic honesty as specified in General Student Regulations 1.0, Protection of Scholarship and Grades; the all-University Policy on Integrity of Scholarship and Grades; and Ordinance 17.00, Examinations. (See [Spartan Life: Student Handbook and Resource Guide](#) and/or the MSU Website: [www.msu.edu](http://www.msu.edu).) Therefore, unless authorized by your instructor, you are expected to complete all course assignments, including homework, lab work, quizzes, tests and exams, without assistance from any source. You are expected to develop original work for this course; therefore, you may not submit course work you completed for another course to satisfy the requirements for this course.

Students who violate MSU academic integrity rules may receive a penalty grade, including a failing grade on the assignment or in the course.

## **Confidentiality**

Essays, journals, and other materials submitted for this class are generally considered confidential pursuant to the University's student record policies. However, students should be aware that University employees, including instructors, may not be able to maintain confidentiality when it conflicts with their responsibility to report certain issues to protect the health and safety of MSU community members and others. As the instructor, I must report the following information to other University offices (including the [MSU Police Department](#)) if you share it with me:

- Suspected child abuse/neglect, even if this maltreatment happened when you were a child,
- Allegations of sexual assault or sexual harassment when they involve MSU students, faculty, or staff, and
- Credible threats of harm to oneself or to others.

These reports may trigger contact from a campus official who will want to talk with you about the incident that you have shared. You have the right to choose whether or not you would like to utilize any of these services or even respond to the university's email. If you would like to talk about these events in a more confidential setting you are encouraged to make an appointment with the [MSU Counseling Center](#).

## **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Requests for accommodations by persons with disabilities may be made by contacting the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities at 517-884-RCPD or on the web at [rcpd.msu.edu](http://rcpd.msu.edu). Once your eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, you will be issued a Verified Individual Services Accommodation ("VISA") form. Please present this form to me at the start of the term and/or two weeks prior to the accommodation date (test, project, etc.). Requests received after this date may not be honored.

## **Note Taking and Recording**

You are encouraged to take notes on the lecture and are permitted to tape-record class sessions for your own purposes. However, you are not permitted to take notes or tape-record for purposes of sale and distribution.

## PSY 238 Course Schedule

\*The lecture schedule will be modified as needed throughout the semester, but exam dates are set.

\*The discussions and reading responses are always due on Friday by 11:59pm.

Week	Date	Lecture	Due FRI @ 11:59pm
1	W 8/28	Syllabus	Discussion 1
2	W 9/4	Introduction & Ch. 2 Theories of Development	Discussion 2, RR 1
3	M 9/9 W 9/11	Ch.3 Genes, Environment, & Development	Discussion 3, RR 2
4	M 9/16 W 9/18	Ch. 4 Prenatal Development <i>Review for Exam 1</i>	Nothing due this week
5	<b>M 9/23</b> W 9/25	<b>EXAM 1</b> Ch. 5 Body, Brain and Health	Discussion 4, RR 3
6	M 9/30 W 10/2	Ch. 6 Sensation, Perception & Action	Discussion 5, RR 4
7	M 10/7 W 10/9	Ch. 7 Cognition	Discussion 6, RR 5
8	M 10/14 W 10/16	Ch. 8 Memory and Information Processing <i>Review for Exam 2</i>	Nothing due this week
9	<b>M 10/21</b> W 10/23	<b>EXAM 2</b> Ch. 9 IQ and Creativity	Discussion 7, RR 6
10	M 10/28 W 10/30	Ch. 10 Language and Education Ch. 11 Self and Personality	Discussion 8, RR 7
11	M 11/4 W 11/6	Ch. 12 Gender & Sexuality	Discussion 9, RR 8
12	M 11/11 W 11/13	Ch. 13 Social Cognition and Moral Development <i>Review for Exam 3</i>	Nothing due this week
13	<b>M 11/18</b> W 11/20	<b>EXAM 3</b> Ch. 14 Emotions, Attachment, & Social Relationships	Discussion 10, RR 9
14	M 11/25 W 11/27	Ch. 15 Family <b>CLASS IS CANCELED</b>	Nothing due this week
15	M 12/2 W 12/4	Ch. 16 Developmental Psychopathology	Discussion 11 Paper 10
<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	<b>F 12/13</b>	<b>7:45am – 9:45am</b>	