**PSY 238 Lifespan Development**

**Instructor:** Caroline Kraft, Ph.D.  **Term:** Spring 2021

**Email:** [Kraftca3@msu.edu](mailto:Kraftca3@msu.edu) **Class Meeting Time:** Asynchronous

**Office:** Psychology Building, Room 252B **Class Location:** Anywhere with Wifi Access

**Office Hours:** MW 11am to 12:30pm on Zoom

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/97712121129?pwd=M1pZa3hxRFJXODJudG1RR09BRk9adz09>

Meeting ID: 977 1212 1129

Passcode: devpsy

**Teaching Assistant:** Allison Costello

**Email:** [coste142@msu.edu](mailto:coste142@msu.edu)

**Office Hours:** MW 3:30 -5pm on Zoom

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/92347500311>

Meeting ID: 923 4750 0311  
Passcode: 013508

**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.

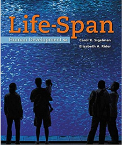
**Course Objectives**

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 (9th Edition) by Carol Sigelman and Elizabeth Rider

ISBN-13: 978-1337100731  \*Older editions are fine

**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: click on Student Quick Start Guide. Please direct all technical questions to the D2L help desk at 517.355.2345 or 800.500.1554.

**Zoom:** Dr. Kraft’s office hours will be conducted on Zoom, Mondays and Wednesdays from 11am to 12:30pm. Zoom will also be used for class exam review sessions. See page 3 of the syllabus for the link.

**Course Guidelines**

* **The lecture material is more important than the book material for your success in this course.**

This means you need to watch the lecture videos. 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.**
* **Tech issues will likely happen in this course on my side and yours, and that is okay.** If you have trouble with internet access and it keeps you from being able to complete your assignments by the due date, please let me know.

**Course Components**

* **Quizzes:** Each week you will complete a quiz on the topics covered in that week’s lecture videos (14 quizzes total). These quizzes will be no more than 10 questions (unless they are based on 2 chapters). You will see many of these quiz questions again on your exams. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped at the end of the semester.
* **Discussion Board:** The discussion board is on D2L. Each week you will see a discussion prompt pertaining to the material covered in lecture. You will 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 4 short written homework assignments in this class. You will write a 2 page (double-spaced) reading response to empirical research 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.** You will turn in your responses via the dropbox function in D2L. All grades and feedback will be posted on D2L within a week following the due date. Assignments are graded on a 2- point scale. **All uploaded documents must be created in MS Word (.doc or .docx) or as .pdf files. Documents that are created in other programs will not receive credit. These papers will be monitored for plagiarism via the TurnItIn system. Guidelines for reading responses are posted on D2L.**

*\*Your grade for each reading response will be posted within a week of the due date.**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.*

* **Exams:** There will be four exams in this course (including the final). The exams will comprise 60 multiple choice questions. You will have **75 minutes to complete the exam**, and **you MUST finish the exam once you start it**. Exams are ***Open Note***, but you are expected to **complete each exam by yourself** (individually), meaning you should NOT communicate with other students about the exam content, and you should NOT take the exam “with” other students (in person, via text, via zoom, through social media, etc.).  **You will have a 48-hour window to take your exams**. For regular exams, the exam will open on Friday at 5pm and will close on Sunday at 5pm.  If you are in the middle of taking your exam on Sunday at 5pm, you will not be able to complete your exam.

**Grading**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Grade** | **Percentage of Total Points** | **Grade** | **Percentage of Total Points** |
| 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:**

* Exams (50%) (4 exams: each worth 12.5% of your grade)
* Reading Responses (15%)
* Quizzes (20%)
* Discussion Board Posts (15%)

**Course Policies**

**Email**

**Please do NOT email me through D2L.**

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.

**Office Hours**

Dr. Kraft holds virtual office hours on Zoom on Mondays and Wednesdays from 11am to 12:30pm and by appointment.

**Office Hours Zoom Link:** https://msu.zoom.us/j/97712121129?pwd=M1pZa3hxRFJXODJudG1RR09BRk9adz09

**Meeting ID:** 977 1212 1129

**Passcode:** devpsy

**Honors Option**

An honors option is available for this course. Please email me if you are interested in learning more about this.

**Academic Honor Policy**

 Article 2.III.B.2 of the [Student Rights and Responsibilites (SRR)](http://splife.studentlife.msu.edu/academic-freedom-for-students-at-michigan-state-university) 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](http://splife.studentlife.msu.edu/) 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](http://police.msu.edu/)) 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](http://counseling.msu.edu/).

**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. 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 (via email) 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. Since lectures are comprised of videos, please do not distribute these videos to other platforms.

**PSY 238 Online Course Schedule**

**\*Each week’s materials will be available on Monday at 10am. The discussions, reading responses, and quizzes are always due on Sunday by 11:59pm. The schedule will be modified as needed throughout the semester.**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Week** | **Date** | **Lecture** | **Due SUN @ 11:59pm** |
| 1 | Mon 1/18 -  Sun 1/24 | Ch. 1 Introduction | Quiz 1  Discussion 1 |
| 2 | Mon 1/25 -  Sun 1/31 | Ch. 2 Theories of Development | Quiz 2  Discussion 2 |
| 3 | Mon 2/01 –  Sun 2/07 | Ch.3 Genes, Environment, & Development | Quiz 3  Discussion 3  **Reading Response 1** |
|  |  |
| **4** | **Mon 2/08 –**  **Sun 2/14** | Ch. 4 Prenatal Development | Quiz 4  Discussion 4  **EXAM 1** |
|  | *Review for Exam 1* |
| 5 | Mon 2/15 –  Sun 2/21 | Ch. 5 Body, Brain, and Health | Quiz 5  Discussion 5 |
|  |  |
| 6 | Mon 2/22 –  Sun 2/28 | Ch. 6 Sensation, Perception, & Action | Quiz 6  Discussion 6 |
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| 7 | Mon 3/01–  Sun 3/07 | Ch. 7 Cognition | Quiz 7  Discussion 7  **Reading Response 2** |
|  |  |
| **8** | **Mon 3/08 –**  **Sun 3/14** | Ch. 8 Memory and Information Processing | Quiz 8  Discussion 8  **EXAM 2** |
|  | *Review for Exam 2* |
| 9 | Mon 3/15 –  Sun 3/21 | Ch. 9 IQ and Creativity | Quiz 9  Discussion 9 |
|  |  |
| 10 | Mon 3/22 –  Sun 3/28 | Ch. 10 Language and Education | Quiz 10  Discussion 10  **Reading Response 3** |
|  |  |
| **11** | **Mon 3/29 –**  **Sun 4/04** | Ch. 11 Self and Personality  Ch. 12 Gender and Sexuality  *Review for Exam 3* | Quiz 11 (based on chapters 11 & 12)  Discussion 11  **EXAM 3** |
|  |  |
| 12 | Mon 4/05 –  Sun 4/11 | Ch. 13 Social Cognition and Moral Development | Quiz 12  Discussion 12 |
|  |  |
| 13 | Mon 4/12 –  Sun 4/18 | Ch. 14 Emotions, Attachment, & Social Relationships  Ch. 15 Family | Quiz 13 (based on chapters 14 and 15)  Discussion 13  **Reading Response 4** |
|  |  |
| 14 | Mon 4/19 –  Sun 4/25 | Ch. 16 Developmental Psychopathology | Quiz 14  Discussion 14 |
|  | *Review for the final exam* |
| **15** | **Wed 4/28–**  **Fri 4/30** | **Final exam will be available for a 48-hour period, from Wednesday 4/28 at 5pm to Fri 4/30 at 5pm.** | **Final exam is NOT cumulative** |
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