

**Syllabus
Developmental Psychology
Fall 2024**

Professor:	Nicholas Maxwell, PhD	Course #:	PSYC 3233, Sec. 101
Office:	OD 118	Time:	10:00am – 10:50am; MWF
email:	nicholas.maxwell@msutexas.edu	Location:	PY102
		Office Hours:	MWF: 9am – 10am; F: 1 – 3pm

Required Texts:

Life Span Development in Context: A Topical Approach (2nd Edition) by Tara L. Kuther

Course Objectives:

After completing this course, you will have a greater understanding of:

1. The different stages of human development, from infancy to old age.
2. How Social, Emotional, and Cognitive factors change over the course of the lifespan.
3. The challenges that come with healthy aging as well as age-related disorders (e.g., Alzheimer's Disease, memory loss, etc.).

Attendance:

This course has been planned as a face-to-face course for Fall 2024. I will use D2L for posting syllabi, course communication, course schedule, attendance, and gradebook. You should regularly check D2L and the email hosted via D2L for important course information.

Class attendance is **required**. If you do miss class, you will be responsible for the material you missed when absent. No make-up exams will be given **except in the case of an emergency**, such as a serious illness, a serious accident, or a death in the family. *You must verify your emergency with documentation. You must contact me via email no later than 24 hours after the missed exam.* If you miss an exam without a valid excuse, you will receive a zero for the assignment. Students with more than four absences will be dropped from the course with a failing grade.

Course Requirements:

1. **Exams:** Students will complete **three** exams during the semester. Each exam will be worth 100 points for a total of 300 points (60% of your final grade).
2. **Quizzes:** Students will complete 12 quizzes throughout the semester (1 per chapter). Quizzes are administered online via D2L and are designed to help you prepare for the exams. Quizzes are open-note/open-book and are worth 15 points each. Your lowest two quiz grades will be dropped. Thus, quizzes count 150 points towards your overall course grade (~ of your final grade 30%).

Quizzes are due Sundays by 11:59pm (see the course schedule below for due dates). ***If you submit a late quiz within 5 days of the due date (i.e., by the Friday after the quiz is due), I**

will assign partial credit (10% off per day late). YOU MUST EMAIL ME TO REQUEST PARTIAL CREDIT. Failure to email will result in a grade of 0 for the quiz.*

3. **Class participation:** Students get the most out of their college experience when they show up to class and actively participate. To facilitate class participation, we will randomly complete activities and/or discussions in class. Your participation grade will be based on your ***participation in class discussions, general attendance, and completion of in-class activities***. Participation is worth **50** points towards your final grade (~10% of your final grade)

Grades:

Your final grade in the course will be calculated based on **500** total points.

500-450:	A
449-400:	B
399-350:	C
349-300	D
< 300:	F

Email Policy:

You are required to use your MSU Texas email accounts for this class. I will not send emails to any other email accounts. I will also not send out class information to any other email address other than your university email account. **Before emailing me about your question, make sure that your question has not been answered/addressed in the syllabus or elsewhere!** When emailing me, please put the course number (PSYC 3233) AND section number (Sec. 101) in the subject line. This will immediately let me know which class you are in so I can respond faster. ***Please note that any emails sent at the end of the semester requesting that your grade be rounded up will be promptly ignored.***

I will try my best to get back to you within 48-hours (during the week). ***If you email me with no context, I will not respond*** Please keep in mind that I strive to maintain a healthy work-life, so I generally will not reply to emails after 5:00pm on weekdays or anytime on weekends/holidays.

All course announcements will be posted on D2L. To ensure that you do not miss any important updates, please check D2L frequently! Additionally, double-check that your primary email address is listed on Banner.

Cell Phones:

Unless you anticipate that you might receive an emergency communication, please turn off your cell phones in class. If you receive an **emergency** phone call or text in class, please excuse yourself and quietly leave the classroom to take the message.

Cheating Policy:

Cheating will not be tolerated. Any evidence of cheating on exams or written assignments will result in dismissal from this class with a grade of "F" and referral to the Dean of Students. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, using unauthorized notes of any kind during an exam, looking on another's exam, allowing another student to look on your exam, plagiarism, and self-plagiarism.

Desire-to-Learn (D2L):

This course utilizes the MSU D2L program for assignment submission. Relevant course materials will also be posted on D2L. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program.

Disability Services:

Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary arrangements. Students must present appropriate verification from Disability Support Services (DSS) during the instructor's office hours. Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodation to a student until appropriate verification from DSS has been provided.

Midterm Grade Reports:

In order to help students keep track of their progress toward course objectives, the instructor for this class will provide a Midterm Progress Report through each student's WebWorld account. **Midterm progress reports will only be provided for students with a grade of C or less in the course.** Midterm grades will not be reported on the students' transcripts, nor will they be calculated in the cumulative GPA. They simply give students an idea of where they stand at the midpoint of the semester.

Change of Schedule:

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Important Dates

Last day for Fall 24 schedule changes: **8/29**

Deadline to file for **DECEMBER** graduation: **9/23**

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W": **11/25**

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Course Schedule

A note on the schedule: This schedule represents an ideal outline of what we'll cover in the course. That being said, we may occasionally get behind (or ahead!) of it. If that happens, I will modify the schedule and any exam content accordingly. Updated schedules may be periodically posted on D2L. I will try to send out announcements, but it's important that you regularly attend class!

The Current Schedule

Week	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due	Notes
Week 1: 8/26 – 8/30	Introduction to Development/Research in Developmental Psychology	Syllabus/Chapter 1	Quiz 1 due 9/8 @ 11:59pm	
Week 2: 9/2 – 9/6	Biology, Prenatal Development, and Birth	Chapter 2	Quiz 2 due 9/15 @ 11:59pm	
Week 3: 9/9 – 9/13	Birth (Chapter 2) Physical Development and Aging (Chapter 3)	Chapters 2 & 3	Quiz 3 due 9/22 @ 11:59pm	
Week 4: 9/16 – 9/20	Brain Development, Perception, and Motor Development (Part 1)	Chapter 4	No quiz this week!	
Week 5: 9/23 – 9/27	Brain Development, Perception, and Motor Development (Part 2)	Chapter 4	Quiz 4 due 9/29 @ 11:59pm	Exam 1: Friday 9/27 (Chapters 1 – 4)
Week 6: 9/30 – 10/4	Cognitive Development	Chapter 6	Quiz 5 due 10/6 @ 11:59pm	
Week 7: 10/7 – 10/11	Information Processing	Chapter 7	Quiz 6 due 10/13 @ 11:59pm	
Week 8: 10/14 – 10/18	Intelligence	Chapter 8	Quiz 7 due 10/20 @ 11:59pm	
Week 9: 10/21 – 10/25	Language	Chapter 9	Quiz 8 due 10/27 @ 11:59pm	
Week 10: 10/28 – 11/1	Cognitive Aging	Slides	No quiz this week!	Exam 2: Friday 11/1 (Chapters 6 – 9; cog aging slides)
Week 11: 11/4 – 11/8	Socioemotional Development	Chapter 10	Quiz 9 due 11/10 @ 11:59pm	
Week 12: 11/11 – 11/15	Self, Identity, and Personality	Chapter 11	Quiz 10 due 11/17 @ 11:59pm	
Week 13: 11/18 – 11/22	Moral Development	Chapter 12	Quiz 11 due 11/24 @ 11:59pm	No Class 11/21 (Maxwell Gone to Conference)
Week 14: 11/25 – 11/29	Death, Dying, and End of Life Issues (Part 1)	Chapter 16	No quiz this week!	No Class 11/27 & 11/29 (Thanksgiving)
Week 15: 12/2 – 12/6	Death, Dying, and End of Life Issues (Part 2)	Chapter 16	Quiz 12 due 12/8 @ 11:59pm	Exam 3: 12/6 (Chapters 10-12, 16)
Finals Week	No final! 😊			