

**Texas A&M University Central Texas**  
**PSYC 3307 -135 (10887) Human Lifespan**  
**Spring 2021**

**COURSE DATES, MODALITY, AND LOCATION**

March 22, 2021-May 14, 2021

**Online:** *This is a 100% online course, and uses the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System* [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>].

**INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Stephanie Weigel, Ph.D.

**Office:** Warrior Hall 318 P

**Phone:** 254.307.0622

**Email:** [sweigel@tamuct.edu](mailto:sweigel@tamuct.edu)

**Office Hours:** Monday & Wednesday 10am-11am, 2:00pm-4:00pm; Tuesday 11:00am-1:00pm. Please email to make arrangements for a phone call/video conference.

**Student-instructor interaction**

Learning is best supported by interaction. This is especially important in an online course. It is important that you feel comfortable asking questions and communicating during class discussions. This will help support your learning and that of your fellow students. Some questions are best saved for outside of the classroom. The best way to contact me for these discussions is via email. We can set up an appointment if needed or you can come by during my scheduled office hours. I will check my campus email daily on weekdays and do my best to respond within 48 hours.

**Participation and Attendance**

As stated above, interaction with the instructor and your peers is critical for learning and your academic success. Participation in an online course means actively participating in discussions each week and submitting assignments on-time. If you get behind it is very difficult to catch up in an online course. Participation in discussions are a portion of the points towards your final grade (see below).

**WARRIOR SHIELD**

**Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas**

Warrior Shield is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in Warrior Shield through their myCT email account.

Connect to Warrior Shield by [911Cellular](https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login) [<https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login>] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in Warrior Shield,

university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

## **COVID-19 SAFETY MEASURES**

To promote public safety and protect students, faculty, and staff during the coronavirus pandemic, Texas A&M University-Central Texas has adopted policies and practices to minimize virus transmission. All members of the university community are expected to adhere to these measures to ensure their own safety and the safety of others. Students must observe the following practices while participating in face-to-face courses, course-related activities (office hours, help sessions, transitioning to and between classes, study spaces, academic services, etc.) and co-curricular programs:

- Self-monitoring—Students should follow CDC recommendations for self-monitoring. Students who have a fever or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 should participate in class remotely and should not participate in face-to-face instruction. Students required to quarantine must participate in courses and course-related activities remotely and must not attend face-to-face course activities. Students should notify their instructors of the quarantine requirement. Students under quarantine are expected to participate in courses and complete graded work unless they have symptoms that are too severe to participate in course activities.
- Face Coverings— Face coverings must be worn inside of buildings and within 50 feet of building entrances on the A&M-Central Texas Campus. This includes lobbies, restrooms, hallways, elevators, classrooms, laboratories, conference rooms, break rooms, non-private office spaces, and other shared spaces. Face coverings are also required in outdoor spaces where physical distancing is not maintained. The university will evaluate exceptions to this requirement on a case by case basis. Students can request an exception through the Office of Access and Inclusion in Student Affairs.
  - If a student refuses to wear a face covering, the instructor should ask the student to leave and join the class remotely. If the student does not leave the class, the faculty member should report that student to the Office of Student Conduct. Additionally, the faculty member may choose to teach that day's class remotely for all students.
- Physical Distancing—Physical distancing must be maintained between students, instructors, and others in the course and course-related activities.
- Classroom Ingress/Egress—Students must follow marked pathways for entering and exiting classrooms and other teaching spaces. Leave classrooms promptly after course activities have concluded. Do not congregate in hallways and maintain 6-foot physical distancing when waiting to enter classrooms and other instructional spaces.
- The university will notify students in the event that the COVID-19 situation necessitates changes to the course schedule or modality.

## **COURSE INFORMATION**

### **Course Overview and description:**

This course is an overview of human development from birth to death. Topics include history, theory, and research, genetic and environmental foundations in chronological order of human development. This course covers the physical, cognitive, emotional, and social development in each of the different age groups from prenatal through adulthood.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon satisfactory completion of this course, students will

SLO 1. Demonstrate content-specific knowledge of the field of human development across the lifespan. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the theories, history, and specific concepts related to genetics, research and environmental foundations through exams, discussions, essays, and application exercises.

SLO 2. Apply the developmental framework, including models and theories, for understanding human lives and developmental change. Students will apply developmental foundations through written application exercises describing real life environments, essays, and group discussions.

SLO 3. Integrate how the three different areas of development -- physical, cognitive, and social - interact to form the developing person. Students will describe and discuss the integration of multiple perspectives of development in group discussions, essays, and written application exercises.

SLO 4. Relate their understanding of human development to their own lives and careers. Students will relate the course materials and concepts to their own lives in group discussions and written application exercises.

### **Required Reading and Textbook(s)**

Berk, L. E. (2017). *Development through the lifespan* (7th Ed.). Boston: Pearson. 9780134419695

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **WEEKLY GROUP DISCUSSIONS**

8 weeks-20 points per week=160 pts total

Each week the instructor will provide a prompt or discussion topic based upon the week's readings. Students will provide their response to the discussion prompt in the Canvas Discussions area. The student's original response is worth up to 10 points. In addition to the response, students are expected to respond to at least 2 peers as well (up to 10 points). In order to receive full credit, the original post and peer response must show knowledge of the readings as well as application to the student's life, career, experiences or perspective. In other

words, the response must go beyond summarizing the text book.

### APPLICATION EXERCISES

3 exercises 20 points each=60 pts total

Students will show their understanding of the three areas of development by completing 3 Application Exercises. For each activity students will select an individual from a specified age/developmental group for observation. The student will spend at least 1 hour observing the individual in an activity (or activities) that the person typically does (natural day to day activities). Upon completing the observation the student will provide a written summary including the following:

- 1) A general description of the person (age, appearance, health) (2 pts)
- 2) A summary of the activity (what types of activities, who was present, their mood, etc) (5pts)
- 3) Connections between *at least 1 concept (see examples below) from each of the 3 developmental areas*. This should include a definition or description of the concept, then specific examples of how they saw this concept in the real-life observation. (6 pts)
  - a. Physical development: fine motor skills, gross motor skills, eating habits
  - b. Cognitive development: language (babbling, gesturing), theory of mind, Piaget's stages
  - c. Social development: empathy, aggression, gender roles
- 4) Discuss how what you observed relates to normal or expected development-are they on track with expected developmental milestones, ahead, behind? (5 pts)
- 5) Clarity of writing and use of APA style (2 pts)

### ESSAYS

3 assignments 20 points each=60 pts total

To expand awareness of current developmental research students will complete three Essay papers. The instructor will provide articles and/or videos for the assigned topic. Students will summarize and integrate the materials and discuss how they relate to and extend the course textbook readings.

### EXAMS

2 exams 60 pts each= 120 pts total

Students will complete 2 exams. Each exam will have approximately 60 multiple choice questions related to the material from that section of the course. The exams will be completed online within the CANVAS course. Students may use their books and notes to complete the exam, but the exam must be completed individually by the student without the help of other students, tutors, etc.

### RESEARCH EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENT

**Research Experience Requirement:** Students in selected psychology courses (PSYC 3307, PSYC 3409, PSYC 3312, PSYC 3430, PSYC 4320) are required to engage in research experience activities as part of the course. The research experience activity involves writing summaries of peer reviewed research articles that are related to the course content. Faculty will identify which articles can be reviewed for their course, and article reviews can be submitted directly to the faculty for evaluation.

If students choose not to write article summaries, they can complete an alternative research experience by participating in research studies directly related to psychology to gain this experience.

**Sign Up for Alternative Research Experience:** To receive credit for this alternate research experience activity, students must create an account in SONA. The [university SONA account](#) is where students will sign up to participate in research projects (<https://tamuct.sona-systems.com>). Students should view the introductory [tutorial video](#) before using SONA (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1OnT2ZU6QQ>) and be sure to use their [university email](#) when signing up. Students who have problems signing up for SONA or have questions should contact the professor of the course.

**Credits:** Students are required to complete 3 research experience credits in this course. Credit is allotted as follows:

- 1 credit for each summary of a peer-reviewed, research article OR  
1 credit for each hour (60 minutes) of research participation (in-person or online)
- 1/2 credit for each 1/2 hour (30 minutes) of research participation (in-person or online)

Students can use a combination of article summaries and alternative research assignments to earn their credits. There is no guarantee that there will be sufficient research participation opportunities for students to earn 100% of their credits from this alternative research experience.

Students who drop a class after having earned research experience credit cannot apply any accumulated credit from that class towards future semesters without the documented approval of the department chair; however, credits in SONA can be transferred from one course to another in the same semester. Credits from previous semesters are not permitted to be transferred for current semester use.

**Penalties:** Any student who has not earned all required research credits prior to the end of the semester will be penalized 1 letter grade on the final course grade. For second-8-week courses the deadline is 12pm (noon) on 5-14-21.

## PROFESSIONALISM

Part of the academic experience is preparation for professional roles. An effective professional and student attends and participates in class with respect for others, completes work on time, communicates appropriately when concerns arise, and meets university conduct expectations (academic integrity, etc). Therefore, a portion of the points for this class (10 points) will be assigned based on these behaviors. A rubric detailing these expectations is provided in the online classroom.

### Final Grading Criteria

#### WEEKLY GROUP DISCUSSIONS

8 X 20 points per week=160 pts

#### APPLICATION EXERCISES

3 X 40 points each = 120 pts

#### ESSAYS

3 X 20 points each = 60 pts

#### EXAMS

2 X 75 pts each =150 pts

PROFESSIONALISM = 10 pts  
 TOTAL Possible = 500 pts

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**Final grades will be based upon the percentage of total points earned:**  
**A 90%-100% ( 450 -500) B 80%-89% (400-449 points) C 70%-79% (350-399 points) D 60%-69% (300-349points) F 59% or less (299 points and below)**

**Posting of Grades**

All grades for the course will be posted in the Canvas Grade book. Grades for assignments and exams will be posted within 1 week of the due date or sooner. Feedback regarding the score will be provided as well, but I encourage you to ask questions about any grade or feedback for clarification.

**Grading Policy**

In order to be successful in this course, it is critical for students to actively participate weekly and complete assignments on-time. If you are unable to complete an assignment by the due date contact your instructor immediately. Late assignments will receive an automatic 10% penalty and assignments more than 1 week late will not be accepted for credit.

**COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topics &amp; Assigned Readings</b>	<b>Assignments or Activities</b>
<b>Week 1</b> March 22-28	Read Ch 1: History, theory and Research Read Ch 2: Genetic and Environmental Foundations; Ch 3 Prenatal	<b>Review Research Experience Requirement</b> , introductions Group Discussion
<b>Week 2</b> March 29-April 4	Infancy & Toddler Childhood Read Ch, 4, 5, 6	Group Discussion; <b>Essay #1</b>
<b>Week 3</b> April 5-11	Early Childhood Read Ch 7,8	<b>Application Exercise: Early Childhood Due</b> Group Discussion
<b>Week 4</b> April 12-18	Middle Childhood Ch 9,10	Group Discussion; <b>Exam 1</b>
<b>Week 5</b> April 19-25	Adolescence Ch 11, 12	<b>Application Exercise: Middle/Adolescence Due; Essay #2;</b> Group Discussion
<b>Week 6</b> April 26-May 2	Early Adulthood Ch 13, 14; Middle Adulthood Ch 15, 16	Group Discussions; <b>Essay #3</b>

<b>Week 7</b> May 3-9	Late Adulthood Ch 17, 18	<b>Application Exercise: Adulthood Due</b> Group Discussion
<b>Week 8</b> <b>May 10-13</b>	Ch 19	<b>Exam 2</b> Group Discussion
<b>Thursday</b> <b>May 13</b>	<i>Thursday May 13<sup>th</sup> is the last day of class, ALL work must be submitted by midnight.</i>	

### **Important University Dates:**

Check this link for important university dates from the current Academic Calendar such as drop/withdrawal dates <https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/academic-calendar.html>

### **Technology Requirements**

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. **We strongly recommend the latest versions of Chrome or Firefox browsers. Canvas no longer supports any version of Internet Explorer.**

Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [<https://tamuct.onecampus.com/>]. You will log in through our Microsoft portal.

Username: Your MyCT email address. Password: Your MyCT password

### **Canvas Support**

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select “Chat with Canvas Support,” submit a support request through “Report a Problem,” or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

### **Online Proctored Testing**

A&M-Central Texas uses Proctorio for online identity verification and proctored testing. This service is provided at no direct cost to students. If the course requires identity verification or proctored testing, the technology requirements are: Any computer meeting the minimum computing requirements, plus web camera, speaker, and microphone (or headset). Proctorio also requires the Chrome web browser with their custom plug in.

### **Other Technology Support**

For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central

24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Email: [helpdesk@tamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamu.edu)

Phone: (254) 519-5466

[Web Chat](http://hdc.tamu.edu): [<http://hdc.tamu.edu>]

*Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.*

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## **UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES**

### **Drop Policy**

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete the [Drop Request](#) Dynamic Form through Warrior Web.

[<https://dynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com/casAuthentication.ashx?InstID=eaed95b9-f2be-45f3-a37d-46928168bc10&targetUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fdynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com%2Fsubmit%2FForm%2Fstart%2F53b8369e-0502-4f36-be43-f02a4202f612>].

Faculty cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar's Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed. Once you submit the completed form to the Registrar's Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar's Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

### **Academic Integrity**

Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student's academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, working with others in an unauthorized manner, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student's work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be referred to the university's Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university's standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

For more [information regarding the Student Conduct process](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html),  
[https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html].

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may [submit a report](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0),  
[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout\_id=0].

### **Academic Accommodations**

At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier-free education. The Office of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the university's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the Office of Access and Inclusion, WH-212; or call (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information please visit our [Access & Inclusion](https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717) Canvas page (log-in required)  
[https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717]

## **Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students**

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit [Student Affairs](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html]. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf) online, please visit the website [http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf].

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender—including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator.

## **Tutoring**

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, on a remote online basis. Visit the Academic Support Community in Canvas to view schedules and contact information. Subjects tutored on campus include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Student success coaching is available online upon request.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, success coaching, or have any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at (254) 501-5836, visit the Office of Student Success at 212F Warrior Hall, or by emailing [studentsuccess@tamuct.edu](mailto:studentsuccess@tamuct.edu) .

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log in and receive online tutoring support at no additional cost. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas except writing support. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

## **University Writing Center**

The University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (TAMUCT) is a free service open to all TAMUCT students. For the Spring 2021 semester, all services will be online as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday with satellite hours Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. The UWC is also offering hours from 12:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in

which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help!

Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by making an appointment via [WCOOnline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at [bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu](mailto:bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu) if you have any questions about the UWC and/or need any assistance with scheduling.

## University Library

The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 85,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available 24 hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our [Library website](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index].

**For Spring 2021, all reference service will be conducted virtually. Please go to our [Library website](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index] to access our virtual reference help and our current hours.**

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## OPTIONAL POLICY STATEMENTS

### A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX

Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html) [<https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html>].

### **Behavioral Intervention**

Texas A&M University-Central Texas cares about the safety, health, and well-being of its students, faculty, staff, and community. If you are aware of individuals for whom you have a concern, please make a referral to the Behavioral Intervention Team. Referring your concern shows you care. You can complete the [referral](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2) online [[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout\\_id=2](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2)].

Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the [Behavioral Intervention Team](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/bat.html) website for more information [<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/bat.html>]. If a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5800.

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### **Copyright Notice**

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This syllabus is a working document and is subject to change at the instructor's discretion. Students will be notified of any changes.