

Introduction to Human Development

Last Updated: Tue, 07/29/2025

Course prefix: PSYC

Course number: 2103

Section: RBS

CRN (you may add up to five):
89016

Instructor First Name: Christopher

Instructor Last Name: Stanzione

Semester: Fall

Academic year: 2025

Course description:

This course provides an overview of the theories, methods, and phenomena of human development, and examines the implications of this information for enhancing lifespan development. Multiple aspects of development, including physical, cognitive/intellectual, and social/emotional development from conception to old age, are considered. The approach to these topics is scientific, with an emphasis on recent research findings in developmental psychology.

Course learning outcomes:

1. To examine age-related changes in human's physical characteristics, social behaviors, and cognition
2. To explore alternative explanations for these changes
3. To develop skills in reading, evaluating, and synthesizing research in developmental psychology
4. To consider applications of lifespan development research to contexts such as parenting, education, and the development of learning materials.
5. Effectively communicate in writing and speaking

Required course materials:

Lifespan Development, Lumen One Courseware, ISBN: 978-1-64087-406-0

Grading policy:

Assessment	How Many?	Points	Total
In-Class Participation	8	5 pts each	40
Discussion Boards	3	15 pts each	45
End of Chapter Quizzes	11	5 pts	55
Application Assignments	3	20 pts each	60
Exams	3	75 pts each	225
TOTAL			425

Attendance policy:

Institute approved absences: This absence is usually for a GT event (conference, sports event, etc). You must submit this form at least 5 days prior to the absence and get me the approval ASAP: <https://registrar.gatech.edu/info/institute-approved-absence-form-for-students>

Personal emergencies: Students may need to miss classes due to personal emergencies such as being hospitalized or being in a car accident. The Office of the Vice President and Dean of Students can assist students with documented emergencies by contacting professors on behalf of the student. For more information, please call the Office of the Vice President and Dean of Students or complete this form: https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?GeorgiaTech=&layout_id=3

Religious holidays: Please contact the Instructor ASAP to reschedule missed work.

Illness: If you are sick, you are responsible to get class notes from a student in class. Because all in-class participation is done in-person, there is no way for you to makeup this collaboration later. Luckily, one of these in-class participation activities is dropped from your grade without penalty.

Evidence of your requested approval letters from either the Registrar or the Deans Office must be in my inbox on the same day or earlier of the assignment/class due date. Once the approval is granted, missed work must be made up within 5 business days of the date on the approved documentation.

Academic honesty/integrity statement:

Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. All work submitted must be original and properly cited. Plagiarism, cheating, or any form of academic dishonesty will result in immediate consequences as outlined in the university's academic integrity policy.

Core IMPACTS statement(s) (if applicable):

This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Social Sciences area.

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I understand human experiences and connections?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

- Students will effectively analyze the complexity of human behavior, and how historical, economic, political, social, or geographic relationships develop, persist, or change.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Intercultural Competence
- Perspective-Taking
- Persuasion