
PSYC 3310-002 Developmental Psychology

16-Weeks – Fall 2025 – August 18th – December 2nd

As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course.

–Erin Quinn Austin

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Instructor Information

Instructor Name

Erin Austin, PhD

Office Location

SWSH 404T

[View Campus Map](#)

Office Phone Number

817-272-2281

Email Address

Erin.Austin@uta.edu

Faculty Profile

[Erin Austin](https://www.uta.edu/academics/faculty/profile?username=erinb) (<https://www.uta.edu/academics/faculty/profile?username=erinb>)

Office Hours

By appointment, virtual through Microsoft Teams

Communication Guidelines

My preferred communication method is Email and Canvas Inbox, I will respond to both so please do not send the same message twice.

I will respond to emails and voice messages within 24 hours or the next business day

Instructional Assistants (Academic Coaches):

Given the size and popularity of this class, academic coaches have been assigned to you. To find your coach, please see the appropriate Canvas course announcement.

Course Information

Section Information

PSYC 3310-002

Course Delivery Method

This course is designated ASYNC ONLINE, which means all course instruction, materials, and assignments are delivered online and asynchronously. No synchronous meetings, exams or projects. This course is entirely online and is divided into weekly instructional modules. All materials and assignments will be available on the first day of class. Students may work ahead on assignments; though, there are consistent due dates on Fridays throughout the semester at 11:59PM. Assignment due dates are clearly indicated in the syllabus as well as Canvas. Frequent reminders will also be sent via Canvas Course Announcements.

For a full definition of the course modalities, please visit the [Course Modalities page](#).

Time and Place of Class Meetings

This course is entirely online. There are no face to face meetings.

Time Zone

This course operates on Central Time. All times listed for class meeting times, exams, and assignment deadlines are in Central Time.

Description of Course Content

This course is designed to introduce major themes of human development and growth from conception through old age, concerned with the physical, behavioral, and social aspects. We will obtain a comprehensive view of the entire lifespan through chapter readings, PowerPoints, and assignments. Much of material will be based on findings obtained in experimental research undertaken in developmental psychology. We will focus more on theories and research than on applications in this course, but applications should be obvious to those who understand the underlying phenomena of the field. It is my hope that you enjoy the material and take an active role in your learning.

Prerequisites

PSYC 1315 Introduction to Psychology

Student Learning Outcomes

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

1. Describe and compare biological, cognitive, and socioemotional changes across key developmental periods, using examples from readings and personal observations, with accurate use of lifespan development terminology.
2. Evaluate how heredity, environment, and context (including culture and historical period) interact to shape human development, using real-world scenarios and evidence from scholarly sources.
3. Apply major developmental theories (e.g., Piaget, Erikson, Vygotsky, Bronfenbrenner) to interpret behaviors or milestones observed in media, interviews, or daily life, with appropriate examples and supporting evidence.
4. Distinguish normative age-graded, history-graded, and nonnormative life events, using at least two observations or examples from diverse stages of the lifespan.
5. Summarize how physical health, nutrition, and lifestyle behaviors impact development from infancy through older adulthood, using scholarly readings and real-life or media-based examples.

6. Analyze how intelligence, memory, and language evolve throughout the lifespan, and reflect on how these cognitive processes affect learning, communication, and problem-solving in real-world contexts.
7. Interpret emotional and moral development across the lifespan, including temperament, attachment, identity, and values, using observations, interviews, or examples from current media.
8. Examine the influence of gender, sexuality, family roles, peer relationships, and culture on development at multiple life stages, applying developmental concepts to current social issues.
9. Reflect on your own development (past and present) through the lens of lifespan psychology, demonstrating insight into your evolving identity, health, relationships, and future goals.
10. Evaluate how people experience major transitions such as education, work, aging, death, and grief, using course readings, lecture material, and experiential activities with clear and thoughtful connections.

Textbooks and Other Course Materials

Required Textbooks and Materials

This course will be using the eBook *A Topical Approach to Life-Span Development*, 11th Edition with an online program from McGraw-Hill called Connect (ISBN: 9781266442209; Copyright 2022; Retail Price: \$112.47). This course is part of McGraw-Hill's Inclusive Access Program, meaning that the charge for this eBook went directly to your UTA account when you enrolled in the course, and you will have access to the correct course materials on the first day of class at a much lower cost. This also allows for course materials in this class to be eligible for financial aid. The link to the eBook and Connect will be available in Canvas. You may also purchase a loose-leaf copy of the textbook from McGraw-Hill if you would like to have a physical copy of the text, but this is not required. To access course materials, simply log-in to Canvas and navigate to the PSYC 3310 course page, click on Connect on the lefthand side of the page and follow the instructions to pair your Connect account with Canvas.

Descriptions of major assignments and examinations

Chapter assignments in Connect and on Canvas will be available on the first day of class and due by 11:59PM (Central Time) throughout the semester on Fridays. Due dates for the assignments can be found in the course schedule at the end of this syllabus. For each chapter, students will complete a LearnSmart assignment and a chapter quiz. There will also be 4-unit exams. Please remember this is an online course that does not have the structure of a traditional lecture course. It is very important that you stay on top of your assignments and complete them in a timely manner.

SmartBook Assignments (150 Points)

The most important part of each chapter will be reading the SmartBook (or regular textbook) and completing your SmartBook assignment. SmartBook readings are flashcard-style assignments. They are adaptive, which means that they are tailored to your individual learning trajectory. They are also stress free: You do not lose points for getting questions wrong but can only advance by getting questions right. By completing these assignments, you will master the knowledge needed to perform well in the critical thinking assignments and chapter quizzes. If you do the readings first, this assignment should take about 60 minutes. There will be 17 SmartBook assignments, one for each chapter. Each SmartBook assignment is worth 10 points and the two lowest SmartBook grades will be dropped.

Quizzes (300 Points)

To test your knowledge of the material, you will complete a 40-question, multiple choice quiz. You will have 60 minutes to complete each quiz and there is no way to stop the clock once you have started, so you will need to know the material well ahead of time. There will be 17 quizzes total, one for each chapter. Each quiz is worth 20 points and the two lowest quiz grades will be dropped.

Exams (400 Points)

Four exams will be given throughout the semester as noted on the **Course Schedule**. The exams are based on the assigned readings, lecture content, and class activities and each exam will be worth 100 points (50 multiple choice questions worth 2 points apiece). The exams will be given online on Canvas using **Respondus Lockdown Browser with webcam**. The tests will be available for an allocated time period (see **Course Schedule**), and you will have one hour and thirty minutes (1hr, 30 min) to complete each test. Please note, these exams are challenging, and students should give themselves an adequate amount of time to study for and complete them. Each exam is worth 100 points.

Exams will open at 6:00AM on Monday and end at 6:00PM on Wednesday on the dates specified on the **Course Schedule**. I will not reset exams for any reason within 1 hour of the deadline for the exams and I will not reset an entire exam if you have completed most of the items. You will want to plan enough time to take your exams. For that reason, I recommend that you do not wait until the last hour to complete your exam. Computer/technical difficulties are NOT a valid excuse for missing or not completing an exam! **Note:** Make-up exams will only be given at the discretion of your professor and arrangements must be made before the exam day (see the **Make-Up Work and Extension Requests policy** for more information). Additional information about exams:

- Questions and answers are given in randomized order, one question at a time.
- You may take the exam only once. If you do not take the exam during the required period for any reason, it will be considered a “missed” exam and a zero will be entered in as the grade.
- You should not discuss the questions with other class members. Assistance in answering the exam questions from another person or discussing exam items with other students of the class will be considered cheating (see policy on Cheating and Plagiarism and Academic Integrity).
- Use of textbooks, notes, cell phone, additional computers/laptops, or any other type of technology is not permitted while taking the exam. Students who are caught using additional materials will receive a zero on the exam (see policy on **Cheating and Plagiarism** and **Academic Integrity**).
- Your full face should be visible throughout the entirety of the exam. You should take the exam in a room with lights turned on. If your full face is not visible in frame for the entirety of exam video, that is grounds for receiving a zero on the exam.

Expectations for Out-of-Class Study

Workload for this course is moderate and 1 chapter will be covered each week. It is your responsibility to keep up with assignments and due dates. You are strongly encouraged to work ahead so that you do not fall behind. All assignments in this course are available on the first day of class. A general rule of thumb for college course is that for every credit hour earned, you should spend 3 hours per week working outside of class time. A 3-credit course would have the

minimum expectation of 9 hours of reading, studying, and working on assignments outside of class time. Since this class is online, it your responsibility to manage your time and workload appropriately and schedule time each week for reading and studying in this course. Students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least 6 hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reviewing required materials, completing assignments, and preparing for exams. Students who succeeded in this class have set up class hours for themselves and generally managed their time wisely.

Technology Requirements

Canvas (<https://uta.instructure.com>)

Assignments, grades, announcements and additional course materials will be posted on Canvas for this class and most of your other courses at UTA. I recommend checking Canvas on a regular basis as I will update it throughout the semester. If new to Canvas please complete the Canvas Student Orientation training course before starting the course:
<https://uta.instructure.com/courses/17157>

Connect (<http://connect.mheducation.com/>)

Homework can be accessed in Connect, through Canvas (easier method) or the link above (after you have registered). NOTE: When registering for Connect for the first time, you MUST log in to Connect through Canvas to sync up your Connect and Canvas gradebooks.

Visit the [UTA Libraries Technology page](#) for a list of items that can be checked out or used at the library.

Grading Information

Grading is based on a mastery model. Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources. For Connect assignments (i.e., quizzes, SmartBook assignments) please email me using Canvas (erin.austin@uta.edu). For information on writing assignments (i.e., paper assignments) please email your academic coaches, as they grade these assignments. I make it a policy not to “bump” any final grade up to the next higher grade. Please do not ask me to do otherwise. If you want a specific grade, then you need to put in the effort necessary to obtain said grade. Please keep in mind, the lowest 2 grades for SmartBook assignments, the two lowest quiz grades, and the lowest activity grade will be dropped. Therefore, your grade is already “bumped” at the end of the semester.

Graded Assignments & Values

Assignment Name	Value (pts or %)
SmartBook (15 – 10 pts each)	150 pts
Quizzes (15 – 20 pts each)	300 pts
Exams (4 – 100 pts each)	400 pts
Total	850

Final Grade Calculation

Range (pts or %)	Letter Grade
765-850	A
680-764	B
595-679	C
510-594	D
<509	F

Make-Up Exams & Late Work Policy

All students are expected to turn in assignments on time. However, there could be certain circumstances that interfere with your ability to complete assignments on time. Only students who have a university excused absence will automatically be granted an extension. However, students with university excused absences must make arrangements with me prior to their absence and/or deadline of the assignments they will be missing. University excused absences are outlined in the Student Handbook and include items such as representing the university at a function or event, fulfilling a military duty, or academic accommodations. Extension requests for any other reason that does not fall under university excused absences such as a serious medical emergency or other extenuating circumstances will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

Extra Credit Policy

No extra credit opportunities are offered in this course. However, the lowest two grades for SmartBook assignments, and the two lowest quiz grades will be dropped. It is recommended that you complete every available assignment in this course and do not treat these dropped grades as “free zeros.” Also, I do not offer individual extra credit opportunities as it would not be fair to the rest of the class.

Grades & Feedback Timeline

I will post grades to the Canvas gradebook within 1 week of the due dates.

Grade Grievances

Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current [University Catalog Grades and Grading Policies](#). For the Department of Psychology, see the [Grade Grievance Form](#).

University & Course Policies

UTA students are encouraged to review the institutional policies and informational sections below and reach out to the specific office with any questions. To view this institutional information, please visit the [Institutional Information](#) page (<https://resources.uta.edu/provost/course-related-info/institutional-policies.php>), which includes the following policies, among others:

- Drop Policy
- Disability Accommodations
- Title IX Policy
- Academic Integrity
- Student Feedback Survey
- Final Exam Schedule

Additional Information

Correct Files

Students are responsible for submitting the correct, complete, and viable file(s) with the correct assignments. Files that are submitted to the wrong assignment or assignments that are submitted with an incorrect, incomplete, or corrupt file can be replaced with corrected files only if the correction is made prior to the original due date and time. Corrected files or submissions that occur after the original due date will be considered late (see Late Work policy). Students are strongly encouraged to submit assignments in advance of the due time, then log out of Canvas, log back in and check that the assignment was successfully submitted, that the file is not corrupt, is the correct file, is complete, and is attached to the correct assignment.

Technological Difficulties

Given the online nature of this course, technological issues are possible. However, technological difficulties (Wi-Fi connectivity issues, browser issues, computer problems etc.) are not a valid reason to ask for an extension or ask that the work not be considered late (see Late Work policy). It is your responsibility to make sure you have access to a computer, the course assignments, and reliable Wi-Fi. Make sure your system is compatible BEFORE you start taking a quiz - look in the *troubleshooting* tab in Connect and it will show you if you have the required applications etc. to be successful at uploading the videos, tasks, etc. Further, it is also your responsibility to give yourself enough time before the deadline to deal with any technological difficulties that will arise. If you experience any problems with Canvas, Canvas Help is the best resource to contact for help. Canvas Help is available on your Canvas Dashboard menu as indicated by the “?” icon. Keep in mind that Canvas records the time and date each student visits any page on Canvas but it does not record specific error messages students receive. The more information you can provide Student Tech with the situation in which you encountered the problem, including any error messages you received, the more able they will be to help you. If you experience any problems with Connect, McGraw-Hill Tech Support is the best resource to contact for help (<https://mhedu.force.com/CXG/s/ContactUs>). They can assist you with any troubleshooting issues that you should have.

Cheating and Plagiarism Course Policy

Any student who engages in academic misconduct including cheating and plagiarism on any assignment or quiz will receive a ZERO on that assignment. No exceptions. It is the responsibility of the student to understand what plagiarism is, how to avoid it, and how to properly cite your sources. Additional information is available at [Student Conduct](#).

Anti-Plagiarism Software

Any written assignment that you complete in this course will be processed using the anti-plagiarism software. This software is integrated with Canvas and will give you a similarity score for your assignments that will be visible to both you and your professor. If there are instances where your writing is similar to, or matches against, a source within the database, it will be flag for your professor to review. **Any work that is submitted that has a similarity score over 25% will not be graded and will receive a zero.** You can see your similarity score as soon as you submit your assignment. In the event that your similarity score is too high, you should revise your document and resubmit your assignment up until the assignment is due.

Attendance

Attending class sessions is a critical predictor and indicator of student success. The University of Texas at Arlington does not recognize a single attendance policy but encourages faculty to establish class-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, note that you

should be aware that we can track your progress in Canvas—in fact, we can see each page you accessed and the time when that occurred.

The U.S. Department of Education requires that UT Arlington have a mechanism in place to verify Federal Student Aid recipients' attendance in courses. UT Arlington instructors are expected to report the last date of attendance when submitting students' final course grades; specifically, when a student earns a course grade of F, instructors must report the last date a student attended their class. For on-campus classes, last date of attendance can be based on attendance rosters or on academic engagements—a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or Canvas-based activity. Online or distance education courses require regular and substantive online interaction and participation. Students must participate in online course activities in Canvas to demonstrate attendance; logging into an online class is not sufficient by itself to demonstrate attendance. The last date of attendance is reported to the U.S. Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

Generative AI Use in This Course

The use of Generative AI (GenAI) in course assignments and assessments must align with the guidelines established by the instructor. Unauthorized use of GenAI could result in breaches of academic integrity. Instructors bear the responsibility of clearly delineating the permissible uses of GenAI in their courses, underscoring the importance of responsible and ethical application of these tools.

The [UTA Office of Community Standards](#) articulates the university's stance on [academic integrity and scholastic dishonesty](#). These standards extend to the use of GenAI. Unauthorized or unapproved use of GenAI in academic work falls within the scope of these policies and will be subject to the same disciplinary procedures.

As the instructor of this course, I have adopted the following policy on Student use of GenAI: **Prohibition of GenAI Use:** In this course, the focus is on the development of independent critical thinking and the mastery of subject-specific content. To ensure that all submitted work accurately reflects personal understanding and original thought, the use of Generative AI (GenAI) tools in completing assignments or assessments is strictly prohibited. This policy supports our commitment to academic integrity and the direct measurement of each student's learning against the course's Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs). Any work found to be generated by AI will be subject to academic review.

Academic & Wellness Resources

Academic Success Center

The Academic Success Center (ASC) includes a variety of resources and services to help you maximize your learning and succeed as a student at the University of Texas at Arlington. ASC services include supplemental instruction, peer-led team learning, tutoring, mentoring, and TRIO SSS. Academic Success Center services are provided at no additional cost to UTA students. For additional information visit: [Academic Success Center](https://www.uta.edu/student-success/course-assistance) (<https://www.uta.edu/student-success/course-assistance>). To request disability accommodations for tutoring, please complete this [tutoring request form](https://www.uta.edu/student-success/course-assistance/tutoring/request) (<https://www.uta.edu/student-success/course-assistance/tutoring/request>).

The English Writing Center (411LIBR)

The Writing Center offers **FREE** tutoring in 15-, 30-, 45-, and 60-minute face-to-face and online sessions to all UTA students on any phase of their UTA coursework. Register and make appointments online at the [Writing Center](https://uta.mywconline.com) (https://uta.mywconline.com). Classroom visits, workshops, and specialized services for graduate students and faculty are also available. Please see [Writing Center: OWL](http://www.uta.edu/owl) (http://www.uta.edu/owl) for detailed information on all our programs and services.

Academic Plaza

The Library's 2nd floor [Academic Plaza](http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza) (http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza) offers students a central hub of support services, including IDEAS Center, University Advising Services, Transfer UTA and various college/school advising hours. Services are available during the [library's hours](https://library.uta.edu/hours) (https://library.uta.edu/hours) of operation.

UTA CARE Team

UT Arlington is committed to the safety, success, and well-being of our students. To support our community, UTA has created a CARE Team, which is a dedicated group of campus professionals responsible for helping students who could benefit from academic, emotional, or psychological support, as well as those presenting risk to the health or safety of the community. If you know of someone experiencing challenges, appearing distressed, needing resources, or causing a significant disruption to the UTA community, please submit a [CARE Referral](#) by visiting the [Behavior Intervention Team](https://www.uta.edu/student-affairs/dos/behavior-it) (https://www.uta.edu/student-affairs/dos/behavior-it) page. You may also submit a referral for yourself if you would like additional support.

NOTE: If a person's behavior poses an immediate threat to you or someone else, contact UTA Police at 817-272-3303 or dial 911. If you or someone you know needs to speak with a crisis counselor, please reach out to the [MAVS TALK 24-hour Crisis Line](https://www.uta.edu/student-affairs/caps/crisis) (https://www.uta.edu/student-affairs/caps/crisis) at 817-272-8255 or the [National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](https://988lifeline.org/) (https://988lifeline.org/) at 988.

Student Services

Everything you need to make the most of your time as a student (and beyond) is all on campus. Below are a few resources to get you started.

- [Student Services Home](#)
- [Student Access and Resource \(SAR\) Center](#)
- [Military and Veteran Services](#)
- [Health Services](#)
- [Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#)
- [Activities and Organizations](#)
- [Recreation](#)

Librarian to Contact

Each academic unit has access to [Librarians by Academic Subject](https://libraries.uta.edu/research/librarians) (https://libraries.uta.edu/research/librarians) that can assist students with research projects, tutorials on plagiarism, and citation references, as well as support with databases and course reserves.

Safety Information & Resources

Face Covering Policy

Face coverings are not mandatory; all students and instructional staff are welcome to wear face coverings while they are on campus or in the classroom.

MavAlert System

The MavAlert system sends information to cell phones or email accounts of subscribed users in case of an emergency. Anyone can subscribe to MavAlerts at [Emergency Communication System](https://www.uta.edu/uta/emergency.php) (<https://www.uta.edu/uta/emergency.php>).

Emergency Phone Numbers

In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at **817-272-3003** (non-campus phone), **2-3003** (campus phone). You may also dial 911. Non-emergency number 817-272-3381

Course Schedule

A Smartbook assignments and chapter quiz are assigned for each chapter and due at 11:59PM (Central Time) throughout the semester and are on Connect, the ebook website. Exams will be on Canvas using Respondus LockDown Browser with Webcam.

ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES	TOPIC	READING
Week 1— August 22	Research Methods & Theories Biological Beginnings	Chapter 1 Chapter 2
Week 2— August 29	Physical Development and Biological Aging	Chapter 3
Week 3— September 5	Health	Chapter 4
Week 4— September 12	Motor, Sensory, & Perceptual Development	Chapter 5
Exam 1—Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5 [Available 6AM, September 15 — 6PM, September 17]		
Week 5— September 19	Cognitive Developmental Approaches	Chapter 6
Week 6— September 26	Information Processing	Chapter 7
Week 7— October 3	Intelligence	Chapter 8
Week 8— October 10	Language Development	Chapter 9
Exam 2—Chapters 6, 7, 8, & 9 [Available 6AM, October 13 — 6PM, October 15]		
Week 9— October 17	Emotional Development and Attachment	Chapter 10
Week 10— October 24	The Self, Identity, and Personality	Chapter 11
Week 11— October 31	Gender and Sexuality	Chapter 12
Week 12— November 7	Moral Development, Values, and Religion	Chapter 13
Exam 3—Chapters 10, 11, 12, & 13 [Available 6AM, November 10— 6PM, November 12]		
Week 13— November 14	Families, Lifestyles, and Parenting	Chapter 14
Week 14— November 21	Peers and The Sociocultural World Schools, Achievement, and Work	Chapter 15 Chapter 16
Week 15— November 28	Thanksgiving Break — No Assignments Due	
Week 16— December 2	Death, Dying, and Grieving	Chapter 17
Exam 4—Chapters 14, 15, 16, & 17 [Available 6AM, December 8 — 6PM, December 10]		