

**Virginia Western Community College**  
**Psychology 230**  
**Developmental Psychology**

**Prerequisites**

Students majoring in or considering a major in Psychology should complete PSY 200 prior to PSY 230

**Course Description**

Traces development in context from pre-conception to death, including the physical, cognitive, and psychosocial domains. Examines methods of scientific inquiry as they apply to lifespan development. Addresses the interrelatedness of developmental domains, as well as the interdependent influences of environment and biology. Students majoring in or considering a major in Psychology should complete PSY 200 prior to PSY 230.

**Semester Credits: 3 credits   Lecture Hours: 3 hours**

**Required Materials**

1. Textbook
2. Internet access
3. Canvas
4. Microsoft word
5. Synchronous online sections: Video camera and audio

Textbook(s):

- Chronological Sections: Belsky, J. (2022). *Experiencing the Lifespan*, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, New York, NY: Worth
- Topical Sections: Sigelman, C.K. & Rider, E. A. (2022). *Life-Span Human Development*, 10<sup>th</sup> Edition, Cengage Learning.

Other Required materials for Chronological Sections: Achieve (optional)

## General Course Purpose

This course is intended to give Psychology majors and non-majors an introduction to and understanding of developmental Psychology. It is aimed at students in Psychology, Education and Nursing, as well as other students with interest in the discipline.

## Course Objectives

**At the completion of this course, the student should be able to:**

- Critical Thinking
  - Identify, analyze, and discuss the major theories of human development.
- Scientific Literacy
  - Identify the goals and methods of the study of lifespan development.

## Major Topics to be Included:

- Research Methods
  - Identify the goals and methods of the study of lifespan development.
- Theories of Human Development
  - Discuss the major theories of human development.
- Prenatal Development
  - Describe the stages of prenatal development and birth.
- Physical Development
  - Describe the life stages of health and physical development.
- Cognitive Development
  - Describe the life stages of cognitive growth and creativity.
- Self and Personality
  - Identify and describe the development of self and personality.

- Gender Roles and Sexuality
  - Identify and describe the process of acquiring gender roles and developing sexual identity.
- Moral Development
  - Describe the life stages of social cognition and moral development.
- Attachment and Social Relationships
  - Describe the life stages of developing attachment and social relationships.
- Family Relationships
  - Identify the processes of family development and changes over time.
- Developmental Psychopathology
  - Identify the different types of psychopathology and what makes development abnormal.
- Death and Dying
  - Describe the changes that occur during death and dying.

## Topical Description

- Research Methods
- Theories of Human Development
- Prenatal Development
- Physical Development
- Cognitive Development
- Self and Personality
- Gender Roles and Sexuality
- Moral Development
- Attachment and Social Relationships
- Family Relationships
- Developmental Psychopathology
- Death and Dying

## Notes to Instructors

Of the two textbook options listed, each instructor will choose the text that matches their preferred teaching style (chronological or topical).

[ADA Statement \(PDF\)](#)

[Title IX Statement \(PDF\)](#)