

1. BASIC INFORMATION

Course	Lifespan Developmental Psychology
Degree program	Psychology Degree
School	Faculty of Biomedical and Health Sciences
Year	3rd
ECTS	6
Credit type	Mandatory
Language(s)	English
Delivery mode	Campus-based
Semester	First Semester
Academic year	2025 – 2026
Coordinating professor	Saray Cáliz Aguilera
Professor	Saray Cáliz Aguilera y Marcela González

2. PRESENTATION

"Life-span developmental psychology" is a subject of the Degree in Psychology, with 6 ECTS. It is a mandatory course which covers a variety of fundamental topics about the way people grow and change during the entire life cycle. The subject covers the principles of how people develop across the lifespan, including the different dimensions of development (biological, cognitive and socioemotional) and the plasticity principle. From conception to death, physical, cognitive, and socioemotional development is examined. Key developmental theorists and theories are integrated throughout the course as well as developmental milestones across the lifespan.

3. LEARNING OUTCOMES

KNOWLEDGE

KN01: Describe the temporal evolution of psychological ideas and knowledge, as well as the changes that different conceptions of the object of psychology and research methods have undergone over time.

 Describe the changes in individuals throughout their developmental stages, from the perinatal stage to old age, as well as the different theoretical models that explain them.

COMPETENCES

- CP01: Understand the functions, characteristics, and limitations of different theoretical models in the field of Health Psychology.
- CP02: Understand the basic laws of different psychological processes in the field of Health Psychology.



- CP03: Understand the main processes and stages of psychological development throughout the lifespan, including aspects of normality and abnormality in the field of Health Psychology.
- CP04: Understand the biological foundations of human behavior and psychological functions.
- CP09: Understand the different fields of application of psychology and have the necessary knowledge to impact and promote quality of life in individuals, groups, communities, and organizations in various contexts: educational, clinical and health, work and organizations, and community.
- CP10: Analyze the needs and demands of recipients in different contexts.
- CP11: Be able to establish goals for psychological intervention in different contexts, proposing and negotiating goals with recipients and stakeholders.
- CP12: Be able to plan and conduct an interview.
- CP13: Be able to describe and measure variables (personality, intelligence, and other aptitudes, attitudes, etc.) and cognitive, emotional, psychobiological, and behavioral processes.
- CP14: Be able to identify differences, problems, and needs.
- CP15: Be able to diagnose according to the criteria of the profession.
- CP20: Analyze the context in which individual behaviors, group processes, and organizational behaviors develop.
- CP24: Be able to define objectives and develop an intervention plan based on its purpose (prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, insertion, support, etc.).
- CP30: Plan the evaluation of programs and interventions.
- CP32: Be able to measure and obtain relevant data for the evaluation of interventions.
- CP34: Provide appropriate and accurate feedback to recipients.
- CP35: Be able to develop oral and written reports.
- CP36: Understand and adhere to the ethical obligations of psychology.

4. CONTENT

- Unit 1. Introduction
- Unit 2. Developmental psychology from the perinatal stage to early childhood
- Unit 3. Developmental psychology from infancy to adolescence
- Unit 4. Developmental psychology of youth
- Unit 5. Developmental psychology of adulthood
- Unit 6. Developmental psychology of old age
- Unit 7. Stages and Psychological Impact of Death.

5. TEACHING-LEARNING METHODOLOGIES

The types of teaching-learning methodologies used are indicated below:

- Case method
- Cooperative learning
- Problem-based learning (PBL)
- Master class
- Simulation environments
- Use of computer programs



• Student presentations

6. LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Listed below are the types of learning activities and the number of hours the student will spend on each one:

Learning activity	Number of hours
Lectures	29h
Asynchronous lectures	6h
Autonomous work	50h
Practical activities	15h
Debates	5h
Case analysis	10h
Research	10h
Formative assessment	3h
Group participatory activities (seminars, participation in forums, etc.)	15h
Face-to-face tutoring	5h
Face-to-face test of knowledge	2h
Total	150h

7. ASSESSMENT

Listed below are the assessment systems used and the weight each one carries towards the final course grade:

Assessment system	Weight
Knowledge test with 30 multiple choice question	45%
Oral presentations:	
Research project based on the development and milestones of the life	30%
of a historical figure. Students must submit/deliver:	
- Written report (5%)	
- Oral presentation (with PPT to support it) in class (15%)	
IPE activity. Integral look at pregnancy and Postpartum:	
interprofessional activity conducted with the Nursing Department. In	



groups with nursing students, students will record digital content on topics related to pregnancy, postpartum and breastfeeding (10%)	
Portfolio: Compilation of activities:	20%
- Activity 1: Simulation praparation	
- Activity 2: Interdisciplinary Practical Workshop with Nutrition	
Department (4%) Collaborative activity focusing on the	
intersection of psychology and nutrition.	
- Activity 3: Practical activity - Midwifery Psychology (4%)	
- Activity 4: Educational Session Design for Child Development (4%)	
Creation of structured sessions targeting cognitive and motor skill	
enhancement across different age groups.	
- Activity 5: Practical activity - Exploring the Changes in Adulthood"	
(4%)	
- Activity 6: Interdisciplinary Practical Workshop (4%) Critical	
analysis of the collaborative activity conducted with the	
Occupational Therapy Department at the Adapted Living Facility.	
*Instructions for the submission of each activity will be detailed in the	
Virtual Campus.	
Participation in debates and forums: The students will propose	5%
questions related to topic 4 through a forum, 3 of which will be selected,	
and the students will carry out a bibliographic search to be prepared for	
the debate. Subsequently, a debate will be held in class. Face-to-face	
attendance at this activity will be mandatory.	

*In addition, students will be required to attend and participate in a **First Aid Basic Workshop** with the aim of training students in first aid adapted to the different vital moments of the individual will be provided. This activity will be done as an interprofessional activity in collaboration with the Nursing Department. Attendance is mandatory and will be evaluated with questions in the final exam.

- ** This course will include the **digital competence activity**: "Recording a Learning Video" in the Portfolio section, in which the student will learn to create digital content. This activity is part of the Digital Development Plan of the Degree in Psychology, within dimension 4.
- *** Mandatory attendance at **all oral presentations on the research project (Development and milestones of the life of a historical figure)** by fellow students is required for successful completion of the Research Project. Physical presence is obligatory during oral presentation sessions; remote participation will not be accepted.

When you access the course on the *Campus Virtual*, you'll find a description of the assessment activities you must complete, as well as the delivery deadline and assessment procedure for each one.

Attendance

According to Art. 1.4 of the Regulation for the Evaluation of Official Degree Degrees of the European University of Madrid (of the continuous evaluation): "The obligation to justify at least 50% attendance at classes is established as part of necessary for the evaluation process and to comply with the student's



right to receive advice, assistance and academic follow-up from the teacher. For these purposes, students must use the technological system that the University puts at their disposal, to accredit their daily attendance to each of their classes. This system will also serve to guarantee objective information on the active role of the students in the classroom.

Those students who have not achieved a 50% attendance rate in the first exam period may be graded as failing and must pass the corresponding objective exams in the second exam period for the subject, where they must obtain a grade equal to or higher than 5.0 out of 10.

7.1. First examination period

To pass the course during the regular exam period, you must achieve a minimum score of 5.0/10.0 in the final weighted grade. Additionally, you must score at least 5.0 in both the Knowledge Test and the weighted average of active methodology activities. Failing to reach 5.0 in either component will result in course failure.

In addition, to pass this subject you must achieve a minimum score of 5.0/10.0 in:

- Knowledge Test (final exam of the subject),
- the portfolio (Overall average of all assessed activities)
- the oral presentation (Overall average of the written report, oral presentation and IPE activity)

Complementary activities with mandatory attendance:

- **First Aid Basic Workshop:** Training on first aid adapted to the different vital moments of the individual will be provided. This activity will be evaluated with questions in the final exam.
- Adapted Living Facility: Students will go to the adapted house for experiential exercises about adapting homes for the elderly. This activity will be evaluated on the portfolio.
- **Educational Session Design for Child Development:** The students will go to the Adapted Living Facility to work on designing activities for the cognitive and motor stimulation of children of different ages. This activity will be evaluated in the portfolio.
- **Simulation session:** We will have a simulation session in the simulated hospital related to topic 2 (Prenatal, Childbirth and Neonatal Period).

These activities are mandatory to pass the subject. The student who does not attend for justified reasons (justified absence according to the UEM regulations and approved by the Academic Advisor) will have to do a complementary work on the topic to pass the subject. If the absence is unjustified, the student will fail the course and must retake that section of the course in the second exam period.

PLAGIARISM AND USE OF IA:

Any student who resorts to or uses illicit means during an evaluation test, or who improperly claims authorship of academic work required for assessment, will receive a failing grade ("0") in all evaluation tests for the exam period in said subject in which the violation occurred, and may also face disciplinary action following the opening of a disciplinary proceeding.

Al-Generated Content: Al-generated content tools (AIGC), such as ChatGPT and other language models (LLMs), cannot be used to generate assignments. These tools also cannot be responsible in any case for the written content in the assignment. The use of artificial intelligence tools is strictly prohibited in the



portfolio activities. If Turnitin detects a high percentage of matches or potential plagiarism, the teacher may assign a grade of 0 for the activity.

Delayed submission of mandatory activities

Late submissions of mandatory assignments will result in the activity not being graded, and a numerical grade of 0 will be assigned. -

Simulation

Uniform Requirement for Simulation Sessions: Whenever simulation activities are conducted, students are required to wear the appropriate uniform (grey scrub top and trousers) in the simulated hospital. Students who do not attend with the complete uniform will not be allowed to participate in the simulation and will be marked as absent for that session.

7.2. Second examination period

To pass the course in the second examination period, the same requirements as in the first exam period must be met. The student must submit the activities not successfully completed in the first exam period after having received the corresponding corrections from the professor, or those that were not submitted in the first place.

To pass the course during the second examination period, you must achieve a minimum score of 5.0/10.0 in the final weighted grade. Additionally, you must score at least 5.0 in both the Knowledge Test and the weighted average of active methodology activities. Failing to reach 5.0 in either component will result in course failure.

In addition, to pass this subject you must achieve a minimum score of 5.0/10.0 in:

- Knowledge Test (final exam of the subject),
- the portfolio (Overall average of all assessed activities)
- the oral presentation (Overall average of the written report, oral presentation and IPE activity)

Same instructions will be required to pass the activities in the second exam period, except for the activities that require mandatory attendance:

- First Aid Basic Workshop: This activity will be evaluated with questions in the final exam. Theoretical material will be provided for the student to prepare for the exam.
- **Adapted Living Facility:** This activity will be evaluated with an assignment that the student will have to develop individually with complementary material provided by the teacher and submit within the portfolio.
- Educational Session Design for Child Development: This activity will have to be developed individually with complementary material provided by the teacher and submitted within the portfolio.



- **Simulation session:** Students will be required to plan, design and record a video in which the student demonstrates the necessary competencies as a psychologist, as developed throughout the course.
- **Debate:** The student will be provided with a topic and specific instructions to conduct a bibliographic search to be prepared for the debate. The student must attend a face-to-face session in which a formal discussion between the teacher and the student will take place. The student must demonstrate critical thinking on the subject.

8. SCHEDULE

This table shows the delivery deadline for each assessable activity in the course:

Assessable activities	Deadline
Oral presentations	December
Portfolio	December
Participation in debates and forums	November
Knowledge test	January

This schedule may be subject to changes for logistical reasons relating to the activities. The student will be notified of any change as and when appropriate.

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

The main reference work for this subject is:

- Erikson, E. H. (2000). El ciclo vital completado. Paidós
- Santrock, J. W. (2014). Essentials of Life-Span Development. Mc.Graw-Hill
- Sigelman, C. K. & Rider, E. A. (2009). *Human Development Across the Life Span*. International Edition

The recommended Bibliography is:

American Psychological Association. (2004). Guidelines for psychological practice with older adults. *American Psychologist, 59*, 236-260. https://doi.org/10.1037/0003-066X.59.4.236

Arnett, J. (2004). *Emerging adulthood: The winding road from the late teens through the twenties*. Oxford University Press. https://doi.org/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199929382.001.0001

Becker, E (1973). The Denial of Death. Simon & Schuster

Benjamin, L. T. (Ed.) (2008). *Favorite activities for the teaching of psychology*. American Psychological Association.



- Benjamin, L. T., Nodine, B. F., Ernst, R. M., & Broeker, C. B. (Eds.). (1999). *Activities handbook for the teaching of psychology,* Vol. 4. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
- Biggs, S., Phillipson, C., & Kingston, P. (1995). *Elder abuse in perspective. Rethinking aging series*. Buckingham, Philadelphia: Open University Press.
- Bowlby, J. (1980). Attachment and Loss. Basic Books, Inc; New York.
- Bruer, J. T. (1999). The myth of the first three years: A new understanding of early brain development and lifelong learning. Free Press.
- DeRobertis, E. M., & Bland, A. M. (2020). Lifespan human development and "the humanistic perspective":

 A contribution toward inclusion. *The Humanistic Psychologist*, 48(1), 3–27 https://doi.org/10.1037/hum0000141
- Freiberg, K. (2006). Annual editions: Human development 07/08. McGraw Hill.
- Fried, S. B., & Mehrotra, C. M. (1998). *Aging and diversity: An active learning experience.* Taylor and Francis.
- Fried, S., Van Booven, D., & MacQuarrie, C. (1993). *Older adulthood: Learning activities for understanding aging.* Health Professions Press.
- Grassian, V. (1981, 1992). *Moral reasoning: Ethical theory and some contemporary moral problems.* Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.
- Goranson, A., Ritter, R. S., Waytz, A., Norton, M. I., & Gray, K. (2017). Dying Is Unexpectedly Positive. Psychological Science, 28(7), 988–999. https://doi.org/10.1177/095679761770
- Huitt, W., & Hummel, J. (2003). Piaget's theory of cognitive development. Educational Psychology Interactive. Valdosta, GA: Valdosta State University. Retrieved from http://www.edpsycinteractive.org/topics/cognition/piaget.html
- Irvin D. Yalom (2008) Staring at the Sun: Overcoming the Terror of Death, *The Humanistic Psychologist*, 36:3-4, 283-297. https://doi.org/10.1080/08873260802350006
- Jason M. Sharbanee & Leslie S. Greenberg (2022): *Emotion-focused therapy for grief and bereavement,*Person-Centered & Experiential Psychotherapies.
- Kantrowitz, B., & Springen, K. (2005). A peaceful adolescence. Newsweek, 145(17), 58.
- Kubler-Ross, D., & Kessler, E. (2014). On grief and grieving. Simon & Schuster.
- Leong, D. J., & Bodrova, E. (2003). Playing to learn. *Scholastic Parent & Child, 11(2), 28*. Retrieved from http://www.scholastic.com/resources/article/playing-to-learn/
- Lois Hoffman, L., Paris, S. & Hall, E. (1997). Psicología del desarrollo hoy. Mc Graw Hill
- Ludwig, T. E. (2004). PsychSim 5.0: *Cognitive development*. [Online Edition]. Retrieved from http://bcs.worthpublishers.com/psychsim5/Cognitive%20Development/PsychSim Shell.html
- Puterbaugh, D. (2005). Why newborns cause acrimony and alimony. (Cover story). *USA Today Magazine*, 133(2720), 26-29.
- Pycha, A. (n.d.). Jean Piaget: Father of developmental psychology. Retrieved from http://brainconnection.positscience.com/topics/?main=fa/piaget
- Reker, G. T., & Chamberlain, K. (Eds.) (2000). *Exploring existential meaning: Optimizing human development across the life span*. SAGE Publications, Inc., https://doi.org/10.4135/9781452233703
- Remnet, V. L. (1989). Understanding older adults: An experiential approach to learning. Lexington Books.
- Ross, K. L. (1999). Some moral dilemmas. Retrieved from www.friesian.com/valley/dilemmas.htm



Shaffer, D. R. & Kipp, K. (2014). Developmental Psychology: Childhood and Adolescence, International Edition (also in Spanish).

Shariatinia, Z (2016). Pacific Science Review B humanities and social sciences 1(2).

Whitbourne, S. K., & Cavanaugh, J. C. (Eds.). (2003). *Integrating aging topics into psychology: A practical guide for teaching undergraduates*. American Psychological Association.

Woolf, L. M. (1998). Theoretical perspectives relevant to developmental psychology. Retrieved from http://www.webster.edu/~woolflm/designs.html

Worden, J. W. (2009). *Grief counseling and grief therapy: A handbook for the mental health practitioner* (4th ed.). Springer Publishing Company.

Zorn, Diane (1979). "Heidegger's Philosophy of Death". Akademia. vol. 2

10. EDUCATIONAL GUIDANCE AND DIVERSITY UNIT

From the Educational Guidance and Diversity Unit we offer support to our students throughout their university life to help them reach their academic achievements. Other main actions are the students' inclusions with specific educational needs, universal accessibility on the different campuses of the university and equal opportunities.

From this unit we offer to our students:

- 1. Accompaniment and follow-up by mean of counselling and personalized plans for students who need to improve their academic performance.
- In terms of attention to diversity, non-significant curricular adjustments are made in terms of methodology and assessment for those students with specific educational needs, pursuing an equal opportunity for all students.
- 3. We offer students different extracurricular resources to develop different competences that will encourage their personal and professional development.
- 4. Vocational guidance through the provision of tools and counselling to students with vocational doubts or who believe they have made a mistake in their choice of degree.

Students in need of educational support can write to us at:

orientacioneducativa@universidadeuropea.es

11. ONLINE SURVEYS

Your opinion matters!

The Universidad Europea encourages you to participate in several surveys which help identify the strengths and areas we need to improve regarding professors, degree programs and the teaching-learning process.



The surveys will be made available in the "surveys" section in virtual campus or via e-mail.

Your assessment is necessary for us to improve.

Thank you very much for your participation.