



Syllabus

EDUA 6308: Human Growth & Development

Sul Ross State University

Fall, 2026

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Office Location and Hours: TEAMS-Tuesdays and Thursdays: 12:00-5:00
and by appointment

CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A study of the life span human development from conception to death encompassing physical social and emotional theories of development. Including an emphasis on childhood and adolescence and the implications for effective academic and interpersonal experiences.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Santrock, J. (2026). Life-span development. New York, NY: McGraw Hill.

Student textbook registration instructions:: [Blackboard Ultra IA Registration](#)

American Psychological Association (2020). The publication manual of the American Psychological Association. 7th Edition. Washington, D.C. American Psychological Association.

DOMAINS

DOMAIN I—KNOWLEDGE OF LEARNERS

COMPETENCIES

Competency 001 (*Human Development and Learning*): Understand theories and processes of human development and learning as well as factors that influence development and learning.

CACREP STANDARDS FOR CMHC STUDENTS

Section 2: Professional Counselor Identity Subsection

F3: Human Growth and Development

- a. Theories of individual and family development across the life span
- b. Theories of learning
- c. Theories of normal and abnormal personality development
- d. Theories and etiology of addictions and addictive behaviors
- e. Biological, neurological, and physiological factors that affect human development, functioning, and behavior
- f. Systematic and environmental factors that affect human development, functioning, and behavior
- g. Effects of crisis, disasters and trauma on diverse individuals across the lifespan
- h. A general framework for understanding differing abilities and strategies for differentiated interventions
- i. Ethical and culturally relevant strategies for promoting resilience and optimum development and wellness across the lifespan

Section 5: Entry-Level Specialty Areas Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Subsection C2: Contextual Dimensions

- g. impact of biological and neurological mechanisms on mental

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Identify and correctly list stages of development (biological, cognitive, moral, and social) during the life cycle of the individual as proposed by various psychological theories.
- Describe the developing person at different periods in the life span.
- Identify disturbances in the developmental process along with possible reasons for these disturbances.
- List different methods of studying human behavior along with the strengths and weaknesses of each.
- Apply implications from various developmental models to counseling and/or educational processes and situations.

- Recognize the similarities and differences within and among people of all ages, cultures, and social backgrounds.
- Identify major problems of children and adolescents as they grow toward maturity and think about possible solutions based on specific developmental theories.
- Review research studies related to various aspects of human development and translate their meanings and implications for education and counseling.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate their ability to apply within guidance and counseling, their knowledge of human development, diversity, and factors that affect client's ability to achieve their potential
2. Demonstrate their ability to plan, implement, and evaluate a developmental counseling program, this program will incorporate assessment, as well as individual and group counseling services utilizing appropriate theoretical frameworks, techniques, and interventions to address personal, interpersonal/social, and educational needs.
3. Demonstrate the ability to communicate and collaborate effectively with others in diverse settings, including the community in order to facilitate client success, and will demonstrate the ability to apply ethical, legal, and professional standards.

COUNSELOR EDUCATION MARKETABLE SKILLS:

1. Graduates will demonstrate oral and written communication skills to apply in careers related to mental and behavioral health including school counseling.
2. Graduates will demonstrate knowledge of ethics, social justice issues, and multicultural concerns to apply in careers related to mental and behavioral health including school counseling.
3. Graduates will demonstrate knowledge of human growth development throughout the lifespan to apply in careers related to mental and behavioral health including school counseling.

DISTANT LEARNING STATEMENT:

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online

assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information. The procedures for filing a student complaint

are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:

To participate in this course, students will need to satisfy the following technical requirements: High-speed Internet access with standard up-to-date browsers. Students must maintain consistent and reliable access to their Sul Ross University email and Blackboard, as these are the official methods of communication for this course.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Students in this class are required to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. A scholar is expected to be timely, prepared, and focused. Meaningful, respectful, and pertinent online participation is also expected.

Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to: submitting work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person's work as one's own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation. Acknowledge when using AI-generated content in assignments. Ensure AI acts as a tool to enhance learning without replacing critical thinking.

SAFE ASSIGN:

The Safe Assignment Tool is an advanced plagiarism prevention system deeply integrated with the Blackboard Learning Management System. SafeAssignment compares student papers submitted to

Blackboard against an enormous wide range of sources and provides instructors with detailed Originality Reports. Because of SafeAssignment's flexibility, this product is an effective plagiarism prevention system that helps instructors to raise student awareness about plagiarism and to educate students about the ways to avoid plagiarism. You can check your similarity report and make corrections if needed. With your similarity report, you will note highlighted areas that have similarity noted between your paper and another source. You will click on the tab within the colored square to see the percentage of the similarity.

Percentages above 10% must be corrected. It does not matter if the source that is being noted for similarity is not the same source that you used. The system is telling you what you have written is too similar to another source and you need to make corrections. You may need to change up some of the wording or order of information to make it your information. More than three or four words in a row that are identical to the

originating author can be detected. **You can submit your draft study as many times as you would like.** This system is designed to assist students with increasing awareness of plagiarism. Typically, plagiarism is an accidental occurrence and occurs when students do not realize their writing is overly similar to another source.

ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act)

SRSU DISABILITY SERVICES:

The University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The Disability Services Coordinator in Counseling and Student Support Services has the responsibility to ensure that students with disabilities have the opportunity for full participation in programs, services, and activities. Students seeking disability services need to contact the Disability Services Coordinator located in Ferguson Hall, room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-171, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, TX 79832. Telephone: 432-837-8203; Fax: 432-837-8724. <https://www.sulross.edu/counseling-and-accessibility-services/>

PARTICIPATION POLICY:

Since EDUA/EDSR 6308 is an online course, participation will be evaluated in Blackboard online discussions. It is the student's responsibility to check the Discussion Board and Sul Ross email DAILY for the duration of the course. In order for you to remain enrolled in EDUA/EDSR 6308, you must reply to the Blackboard Discussion Board "Online Participation Policy" forum by the deadline posted on the Due Dates listing contained in this syllabus. It is policy at Sul Ross State University that if a student is enrolled in an online course and fails to stay active for a period of 3 weeks, fails to submit assignments, and/or does not reply to emails from the instructor, he/she will receive a final grade of "F." You may access the "Online Participation Policy" forum by entering Blackboard, then selecting Discussion Board. Please follow the directions regarding your required response.

Each student will be expected to stay in regular communication with his/her professor and will be required to respond to emails sent to your Sul Ross email and/or telephone calls initiated by the professor within two days. If a timely response is not received, 50 points will be deducted from your overall grade. (No Excuses)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Course Assignments:

1. SmartBook: (30% of overall grade)

Replacing quizzes, students will use SmartBook which is an adaptive digital reading and learning tool. It acts as an interactive textbook that continuously assesses a student's mastery of course concepts and alters the reading and questioning experience to target individual knowledge gaps. There is one SmartBook for each chapter, with 40 questions. Each SmartBook takes between 40 to 60 minutes to complete.

2. Quest: (10% of overall grade)

Quest is an immersive, first-person human development learning game. Students play as 12 diverse characters ranging in age from 9 months to 80 years, applying psychological theories to real-world scenarios through the eyes of others. Students experience challenges related to diverse cultures, backgrounds, and developmental stages. Additionally, as students analyze real-world behaviors and contexts, they are exposed to intersecting biological, cognitive, and socioemotional processes as well as a range of cultures. Each quest is designed with layered replayability, offering different students in the same class different experiences. Each Quest game takes approximately 30 minutes to complete.

3. Discussion Board Activities: (10% of overall grade)

Quest-Chapter discussion board POSTS and RESPONSES are due by 11:59 p.m. CST on the given due date. There are 12 discussion boards, each corresponding with the given chapter and unique Quest character. Each discussion board post is worth 20 points and each discussion board response is worth 10 points=30 points total. A response is directed towards a fellow student's posting. In other words, you are going to review a fellow student's discussion board post and provide a response. Response postings must entail more than "great posting" or "good job". Although these phrases may be included, you must expand on your thoughts and present good responses. **Students must acknowledge when using AI-generated content in assignments. Ensure AI acts as a tool to enhance learning without replacing critical thinking.**

4. Developmental Studies: (50% of overall grade)

The developmental case studies for this course will serve as both the midterm and final exams and are worth 100 points each.

The first case study (childhood through adolescence) will serve as the midterm.

The second case study (young adulthood through older adulthood) will serve as the final exam.

Developmental Studies:

You will write two developmental studies during this course.

The first developmental study will be written on a child/youth/adolescent. You need to have a participant for this study, someone that you can spend time with and observe. With children you will need to spend time with the actual child and parents. You may choose the developmental level (Infancy, Early Childhood, Middle & Late Childhood or Adolescence) and include multiple theories/theorists (Piaget, Bruner, Vygotsky, Erikson, Kohlberg, Bandura, etc.) which you will investigate as a part of this study.

You will provide the following information for your subject:

- I. Identifying Information;
- II. Developmental Changes (Physical, Emotional, Social, Cognitive, Language and Moral);
- III. General Assessment. Select the theories/theorists that are appropriate for your subject on which to base your assessment in each area.

This paper will serve as your midterm examination. Please review the rubric.

The second developmental study will be similar to the first with the exception that it will be written on an adult, but please see the rubric for additional details. You need to have a participant for this study, someone that you can spend time with and observe. You may choose the developmental level from Early Adulthood, Middle Adulthood, or Late Adulthood.

You will provide the following information as is relevant for your subject:

- I. Identifying Information;
- II. Developmental Changes (Physical, Cognitive, Personality, Careers, Work, Leisure, Relationships, Religion, Meaning in Life, Health, and Aging);
- III. General Assessment. Select the theories/theorists that are appropriate for your subject on which to base your assessment in each area.

This study will serve as your final examination

Example theory/theorist:

- Erickson: Stages of Identity Development
- Kohlberg: Levels of Moral Development
- Piaget: Stages of Cognitive Development
- Super: Life Stages

NOTE: The studies must be written using APA guidelines using appropriate documentation. *These are NOT opinion studies so do not use personal pronouns that refer to you.* You must analyze the development of an individual of your choosing.

You MAY NOT use your spouse or your own children as the subject of the developmental study. You MAY use a parent, grandparent, or other such relative. The developmental study must be current, you may not base your study on a previous experience. The written body of the studies should be 7-8 pages in length (Times New Roman 12 pt. font, double spaced), in addition include a cover page and a reference page, and provide specific information related to how the subject you are analyzing “fits” in the categories used for analysis (see above) according to the theory/theorist you have chosen to review.

You must use the textbook and other supporting information to support your statements. See the Writing Rubric at the end of the Syllabus. References must be cited within the body of your studies. Studies with multiple errors and/or excessive similarity reported through SafeAssign will receive a reduction in grade.

EVALUATION/GRADING POLICY:

Note: Grades are earned based on the quality of the work completed. **Assignments submitted after due dates will receive no credit.** Grades of **Incomplete (I)** are not given in the Professional Studies Division of Sul Ross State University *except* in the *most extreme* situations.

A grade of "A" will not be given in this course unless the student's writing reflects graduate level quality. See writing rubric at the end of the syllabus.

Grading A=100-91% B=90-81% C=80-71% D=70-61%

SmartBook	30%	(Quiz)	820 Points
Quest	10%	(Assign)	420 Points
Discussion Boards	10%	(Discussion)	360 Points
Developmental Studies	50%	(each 100/25%)	200 Points
Total	100%		1800 Points

Graduate students must maintain a 3.0 GPA to remain in good standing.

Grades of **Incomplete (I)** are not given in the Professional Studies Division of Sul Ross State University *except* in the *most extreme* situations

A grade of "A" will not be given in this course unless the student's writing reflects graduate level quality and the written program is superior. A grade of "C" will result in the student retaking the course.

SCHEDULE/DUE DATES:

All Assignments are due by 11:59pm (CST). **No late work will be accepted.**

August 24- Online EDUA 6308 course officially begins.

Calendar of Assignments and Due Dates

Late Assignments will not be accepted for grading-You will receive a 0, no exceptions!

Assignment:	Date Due:	Time Due:	Date Completed:
Module 1			
Discussion Board-Online Participation Policy	08-30-26	11:59 pm central	
AI Policy	08-30-26	11:59 pm central	
Discussion Board-Introduce Yourself	08-30-26	11:59 pm central	
SmartBook Overview	08-30-26	11:59 pm central	
Module 2			
Chapter 1 SmartBook	09-06-26	11:59 pm central	
Chapter 2 SmartBook	09-06-26	11:59 pm central	
Chapter 3 SmartBook	09-06-26	11:59 pm central	
Chapter 4 SmartBook	09-06-26	11:59 pm central	
Chapter 5 SmartBook	09-06-26	11:59 pm central	
Module 3			
Chapter 6 SmartBook	09-13-26	11:59 pm central	
Chapter 6-Quest: Gabi	09-13-26	11:59 pm central	
Chapter 6-Discussion Board-Gabi	09-13-26	11:59 pm central	
Module 4			
Secure Your Subject for the Child Development Study-Now			
Chapter 7 SmartBook	09-20-26	11:59 pm central	

Chapter 7-Quest: Haruki	09-20-26	11:59 pm central	
Chapter 7-Discussion Board-Haruki	09-20-26	11:59 pm central	
Module 5 (Module 5 and 6 are due 09-27-26)			
Chapter 8 SmartBook	09-27-26	11:59 pm central	
Chapter 8-Quest: Zoe	09-27-26	11:59 pm central	
Chapter 8-Discussion Board-Zoe	09-27-26	11:59 pm central	
Chapter 8-Quest: Oliver	09-27-26	11:59 pm central	
Chapter 8-Discussion Board-Oliver	09-27-26	11:59 pm central	
Module 6 (Module 5 and 6 are due 09-27-26))			
Chapter 9 SmartBook	09-27-26	11:59 pm central	
Module 7			
Chapter 10 SmartBook	10-04-26	11:59 pm central	
Chapter 10-Quest: Abby	10-04-26	11:59 pm central	
Chapter 10-Discussion Board-Abby	10-04-26	11:59 pm central	
Chapter 10-Quest: James	10-04-26	11:59 pm central	
Chapter 10-Discussion Board-James	10-04-26	11:59 pm central	
Module 8			
Chapter 11 SmartBook	10-11-26	11:59 pm central	
Child Development Study	10-11-26	11:59 pm central	
Module 9			
Chapter 12 SmartBook	10-18-26	11:59 pm central	
Chapter 12-Quest: Rohan	10-18-26	11:59 pm central	
Chapter 12-Discussion Board-Rohan	10-18-26	11:59 pm central	

Chapter 12-Quest: Kate	10-18-26	11:59 pm central	
Chapter 12-Discussion Board-Kate	10-18-26	11:59 pm central	
Module 10 (Secure Your Subject for the Adult Development Study-Now)			
Chapter 13 SmartBook	10-25-26	11:59 pm central	
Module 11			
Chapter 14 SmartBook	11-01-26	11:59 pm central	
Chapter 14-Quest: Martinez	11-01-26	11:59 pm central	
Chapter 14-Discussion Board-Martinez	11-01-26	11:59 pm central	
Chapter 14-Quest: Allison	11-01-26	11:59 pm central	
Chapter 14-Discussion Board-Allison	11-01-26	11:59 pm central	
Module 12			
Chapter 15 SmartBook	11-08-26	11:59 pm central	
Module 13			
Chapter 16 SmartBook	11-15-26	11:59 pm central	
Chapter 16-Quest: Felisha	11-15-26	11:59 pm central	
Chapter 16-Discussion Board-Felisha	11-15-26	11:59 pm central	
Chapter 16-Quest: Harvey	11-15-26	11:59 pm central	
Chapter 16-Discussion Board-Harvey	11-15-26	11:59 pm central	
Module 14			
Chapter 17 SmartBook	11-22-26	11:59 pm central	
Module 15			
Chapter 18 SmartBook	11-29-26	11:59 pm central	

Adult Development Study	11-29-26	11:59 pm central	
Module 16			
Chapter 19 SmartBook	12-06-26	11:59 pm central	
Chapter 19-Quest: Geraldine	12-06-26	11:59 pm central	
Chapter 19-Discussion Board-Geraldine	12-06-26	11:59 pm central	
Chapter 20 SmartBook	12-06-26	11:59 pm central	

WRITING RUBRIC FOR ALL WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS AND DISCUSSIONS:

Sub-skill	Beginning 1	Basic 2	Proficient 3	Advanced 4	Exceptional 5	Score
Integration of Knowledge	The paper did not incorporate knowledge from the literature or class in relevant and meaningful ways	The paper somewhat incorporated knowledge from the literature in relevant and meaningful ways	The paper incorporated knowledge from the literature in relevant and meaningful ways	The paper effectively incorporated knowledge from the literature in relevant and meaningful ways	The paper very effectively incorporated knowledge from the literature in relevant and meaningful ways	

Organization and Presentation	The paper lacked topic sentences, transitions from one topic to another, relevant connections among topics, and a seamless flow	The paper occasionally included topic sentences, transitions from one topic to another, relevant connections among topics, and a seamless flow	The paper consistently included topic sentences, transitions from one topic to another, relevant connections among topics, and a seamless flow	The paper consistently and effectively employed topic sentences, transitions from one topic to another, relevant connections among topics, and a seamless flow	The paper uniformly and very effectively employed topic sentences, transitions from one topic to another, relevant connections among topics, and a seamless flow	
Focus	The paper's topic lacked focus and a clear direction	The paper's topic had occasional focus, direction, and purpose	The paper's topic had focus and clarity of direction and purpose	The paper's topic had effective focus and clarity of direction and purpose	The paper's topic had very effective focus and clarity of direction and purpose	
Sub-skill	Beginning 1	Basic 2	Proficient 3	Advanced 4	Exceptional 5	Score
Level of Coverage	The paper lacked depth, elaboration, and relevant material	The paper occasionally included depth, elaboration, and relevant material	The paper included depth, elaboration, and relevant material	The paper effectively included depth, elaboration, and relevant material	The paper very effectively included depth, elaboration, and relevant material	
Grammar/ Spelling	The paper contained numerous errors of grammar and spelling	The paper contained some errors of grammar and spelling	The paper contained very few errors of grammar and spelling	The paper contained only one or two errors of grammar and spelling	The paper contained no errors of grammar and spelling	

References and Sources	The paper did not include content from peer reviewed journal articles and/or scholarly books/book chapters and instead cited web site material of questionable veracity	The paper included content from a few peer reviewed journal articles and scholarly books/book chapters and instead included material from web sites of questionable credibility	The paper included content from peer reviewed journal articles and scholarly books/book chapters and only included material from credible web sites	The paper effectively included content from peer reviewed journal articles and scholarly books/book chapters and only included material from credible web sites	The paper very effectively included content from peer reviewed journal articles or scholarly books/book chapters and only included material from credible web sites	
APA Style	The paper did not use APA style	The paper was partly based on APA style	The paper was mostly based on APA style	The paper was based on APA style with only a few exceptions	The paper was completely and accurately based on APA style	
Total Score						
Mean Score						

Comments: _____

Student

Name: _____ A# _____

Assignment: _____ Date: _____