Greetings and Welcome to Human Development: Lifespan (Psyc 321)

My name is Gemma Skillman and I will be your lecturer for this course. My pedagogical approach to teaching can best be described as community oriented, consisting of mutual respect and shared responsibility in the learning process, with a commitment to student-centered learning, collaboration, and mastery and meaningful application of content. I really look forward to offering Human Development online again as I welcome the opportunity to continue teaching this very important foundational psychology/development course; likewise I am always interested in improving my on-line teaching skills.

A little about myself: I enjoy outdoor and nature activities like hiking, biking, gardening and wellness/fitness. Art, music, and baking have always been fulfilling and pleasant lifespan activities that I have loved to engage since a child. I have two children: a daughter who lives in Hawaii (graduate of UHM) and a teenage son both navigating in this complex and beautiful world. We all love Sky our Newfoundland big girl 5+ year old pup, named after Luke Skywalker. I look forward to meeting you online and learning more about your interests in Human Development and Psychology.

I have served as faculty in the Clinical Psychology Ph.D. Program and Department of Psychology at The University of South Dakota (USD) since 1998, a doctoral program fundamentally committed to the scientist-practitioner model and the training of psychologists to competently serve rural, cross-cultural/multicultural and indigenous, and underserved communities. My years at the university, department, and the program has been professionally and personally rewarding one filled with many shared successes and collaborations with undergraduate and graduate students, and faculty. In the last few years my professional interests have moved greater in the direction towards understanding complex processes related to development of wellness/health and mental health in the family context with a particular interest in resiliency and transformation. Specifically, I am intrigued by individual, family, and community resiliency despite the challenges and adversity experienced (disabilities, trauma, family illness, disasters, and stressors).

Be aware that in order to remain registered in the course, you MUST log in during the first week of the class. If you have not logged in, you will be dropped from the course. Please refer technological difficulties to D2L
support personnel at USD by calling Continuing Education at 800-233-7937 or 605-677-6240, or contact the Student Help Desk at helpdesk@usd.edu, 877-269-6837 or 605-677-5028.

**Course Description:** This course will cover a comprehensive overview of theoretical and methodological approaches in understanding life-span developmental psychology. Scientific and cultural perspectives are integrated within the reading assignments and lectures. In addition, a survey of the physical, social, cognitive, and personality changes that take place from conception through the lifespan will be covered.

As a result of learning the material associated with this class, students should be able:

- To gain a basis of understanding of the physical, cognitive, social and personality aspects of human development across the life span.
- To identify the major developmental milestones across the human life span.
- To describe barriers to normal development processes.
- To develop an awareness of cross-cultural perspectives in human development.

**Textbook:** *Lifespan Development: Lives in Context* by Tara L. Kuther - Western Connecticut State University

**BUNDLE:** Kuther: LifeSpan Development Loose Leaf Version + Kuther: Lifespan Development Interactive eBook

ISBN: 9781506339610

The University of South Dakota has established minimum technology requirements for participation in online courses. These are outlined under the “Technology Support and Requirements” section in the CDE Online Orientation document in the Getting Started widget on the course homepage.

Additionally, live course lectures/office hours will be facilitated via a web-conferencing system called Collaborate.

**General Course Schedule:** In general, a typical week in this course will be sequenced as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Task</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Start of the week; new materials and weekly assignments available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Open for independent work and discussions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Open for independent work and discussions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Open for independent work and discussions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Live/Real Time Collaborate Office Hours by Appointment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Recorded lecture @ 8:00 PM CT (these last around 2 hours) - Open for independent work &amp; discussions. <strong>Note, that today the discussions posts are due from the previous week’s topic.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Weekly Quiz, it will open approximately @ 12:00 PM CT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Open for work on discussions/assessments/quizzes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Open for work on discussions/assessments/quizzes. Begin to prepare for the next week’s topic. <strong>Adjustments made due to technological difficulties and student circumstances.</strong></td>
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</table>
Contact Me
My contact information is listed at the top of this document. The best way to contact me is via my USD email account gemma.skillman@usd.edu. I will do my utmost to respond to your requests within forty-eight (48) hours during the weekdays.

General Course Requirements and Expectations

The South Dakota Board of Regents defines a credit hour as constituting one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction, and two hours of out of class student work. To that end, as this is a three credit-hour course, students should expect to invest around nine hours per week in the course. Depending upon your studying style skills, you may end up spending more than nine hours a week on the course.

As this is an online course, we will not be meeting face-to-face, so this engagement requirement will be reproduced by the following activities, all of which will be due by the end of the week: posting in the weekly discussions; attending the lecture/watching recorded lecture; completing the weekly, un-graded assessment; other assessments at the discretion of the instructor.

IMPORTANT: This will not be a self-paced or correspondence-like course. You will be required—and given points based upon your performance—on the weekly requirements. Failure to do so may result in a reduced grade in the course, or being dropped from the course.

In terms of other assessments, there will be weekly quizzes, which must be taken using the LockDown Browser. These will NOT be proctored; however, you are not allowed to use any materials whilst taking the exam. There are also discussion assignments throughout the semester. Please see the syllabus for more details (dates, expectations, etc.).

Getting Started

First, you will want to access the course in Desire2Learn (D2L). This can be done via the USD student portal, http://myu.usd.edu, or directly via https://d2l.sdbor.edu. The course should be listed in under “My Courses.”

Note: you will not be able to access the course until the start date, as indicated in WebAdvisor.

Next, you should familiarize yourself with the CDE Online Orientation, which can be found in the Getting Started widget on the course homepage. It contains important information on accessing USD’s resources online.

Once in the course, you should do the following:

1. Read through the items in the Getting Started section on the top, left-hand side of the course homepage.
2. Orient yourself to the course components: News, Content (where all course materials reside), Discussions, etc.
3. Post your introduction in the first week’s discussion topic under Discuss.