West Los Angeles College  
Fall 2014  
Syllabus

Course Title: Psychology 41, Lifespan Psychology, From Infancy to Old Age, 4773  
Life Span Psychology (UC: CSU) 3:00 units

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adjunct Assistant Professor</th>
<th>Robert Irvin, PhD, MPH</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Email: Phone</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lrobvine@gmail.com">lrobvine@gmail.com</a>, 310-936-7221</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office hours:</td>
<td>30 minutes before or after class, by email</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting Place:</td>
<td>Monday, 6:45 PM – 10:00 PM, GC 330</td>
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Course Description and Learning Objectives:
This course surveys the major areas of lifespan developmental psychology - the science of individual human development. The course emphasizes an understanding of the important methods, terms, theories, and findings in the field of lifespan psychology. The course is organized in a topical format, exploring the basic theories and tracing development across the entire lifespan for each psychological topic covered. Emphasis is placed on theories and their application to the behavioral, cognitive, psychosocial domains, and stages of life.

The general goals and objectives of Lifespan Psychology are to help the student:
♦ Learn and gain mastery over the basic facts and research findings, terminology, principles, and theories important in the various areas of lifespan developmental psychology.
♦ Develop understanding, skills, and techniques for analyzing human behavior using a scientific approach.
♦ Gain a basic understanding of the interaction between genetic and environmental influences on human development.
♦ Gain a basic understanding of cognitive and social development across the lifespan.
♦ Gain a basic understanding of family, school and work achievement, and death and dying as they apply to lifespan development.
♦ Analyze current issues and controversies in the field of developmental psychology.
♦ Practice and develop critical thinking skills, and written communications skills.
♦ Find ways to apply psychological findings to everyday life.

Psychology Department Student Learning Outcome (Psy41): Student will apply knowledge of developmental changes in physical, cognitive, and socioemotional/psychosocial processes across the lifespan, to real life.

Required Textbook: Berger, Kathleen Stassen, Invitation to the Life Span, 2e  
Worthpublishers, 2014.

Required Technology- Access to a relatively modern computer with internet access
Method of Instruction:
The class will primarily consist of lecture, discussion, topical presentations. There will be regular viewing of the video series, 1) The Journey through the Lifespan, Worthpublishers, which will offer a survey of each stage of the developing person lifespan. It is important for your success that you read the material before we discuss this in class, and allow adequate time per week from you schedule for studying. Although there are not prerequisites for this course, it is strongly recommended that you have passed an introductory psychology course before taking this class. In support of the course, eligibility for English 101 is recommended.

Guidance on How to Approach Study: Most students will have established study patterns and do not require advice. Those students that are new to higher education generally, and college specifically will find this discipline and its various methods of subject delivery challenging. The best advice is, do not let work pile up, and stay on course. Heed the timetable, make it work around your family, social, and work commitments. There are two types of content in this course, conceptual (editorial/introductory/theoretical) and factual, so students need to study using different methods. The former is harder because students might be asked to apply acquired knowledge or theory to resolve an issue – in other words, they need to understand concepts and relationships to do well. Facts are hard to remember for some. A good method is to print out four equal sized summary cards per page on paper and flick through them until you have the details conceptualized and generalized. Talk to your instructor if you are experiencing problems or if you need special consideration. You can get help from other students or faculty. That way everyone benefits from the answers and advice. Be friendly, introduce yourself, participate in general class discussions, and try to respond to class discussion. Let people know who you are, what your skills are, what you are doing, and where you are going.

Here is an “A-Student” quick start checklist for the first week of classes.
Register for your classes before the term begins, obtain a printout of your classes, become familiar with the campus and locations of the departments/services and facilities, inquire how to access computer labs, email accounts, and the internet, visit the library, organize your notebooks, create a long-term calendar, decide on a system to record all coursework assignments, become familiar without textbooks by surveying each chapter, show the first day of class ready to learn, make a commitment to dedicate sufficient time each week to studying, plan to ask questions about the class, the expectations, and the assignments, monitor your stress levels.

Course Policies:
• Attendance: College policy is that students are expected to attend all class meetings, with necessary materials, texts, and preparation to ensure that you do not miss important information. I maintain an attendance log. Non-communicated absences will be considered, and can negatively affect your final grade in this course. Excessive tardiness, in light of the fact that this is an evening class, can also negatively affect your grade. It is the student's responsibility to be informed about the College's policy regarding drop/withdrawal from enrolled coursework. All cell phones/pagers must be turned off or set to a non-ringing mode. If you receive a message, you may leave for an emergency. This is a learning environment, and distractions must be kept to a minimum.
Guidelines for Sharing: I look forward to a rewarding and interesting session with you, and I really want you to succeed in this class. If you are having any problems that you think is affecting your performance, consult me, communication is extremely important, and I support your efforts. Feel free to leave me a message, phone, or email. Cell phones/pagers should not interrupt the class. Turn it off, or put it on a silent mode (vibrate). Talking to other students during a lecture or while another student is speaking is rude and is not acceptable behavior. Leaving during the middle of a class is equally rude and disruptive.
### Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week/Class Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Principal Chapters/Lecture Topic/Class Activity/Due Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/8</td>
<td></td>
<td>Introduction to Lifespan Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/15</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
<td>the Science of Human Development</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
<td>from Conception to Birth</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Chapter 1</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>What are the complexities of studying all kinds of people?</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Why are theories considered so important to science?</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>What special methods do developmentalists use to study change over time?</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Why do scientific conclusions need to be interpreted with caution?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Chapter 2</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>How do genes affect each individual?</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>What birth practices are best for father, mother and newborn?</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>How can serious birth disorders be avoided?</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Is alcoholism genetic or cultural?</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/22</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
<td>the First Two Years: Body and Mind</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Quiz 1 Chapters 1-2</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>B.O. Proposals due = (3-4 Sentence Paragraph)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Chapter 3</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>What part of an infant grows most in the first two years?</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>How are newborn humans the opposite of newborn kittens?</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Does immunization protect or harm babies?</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>If a baby doesn’t look for an object that disappears, what does that mean?</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Why talk to babies who are too young to understand words?</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/29</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
<td>the First Two Years: Psychosocial Development</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Chapter 4</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>How do smiles, tears, anger and fear change from birth to age 2?</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Does a baby’s temperament predict lifelong personality?</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>What are the signs of a healthy parent-infant relationship?</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Do the five major theories and the hundreds of human cultures differ in their understanding of infant emotions and caregiving practices?</td>
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### Chapter 5
#### Quiz 2 Chapters 3-4

1. Why do some young children get too fat?
2. Should left-handed toddlers become right-handed adults?
3. How should adults answer when children ask, “why?”
4. Does it confuse young children if they hear two or more languages?
5. What do children learn in preschool?

### Chapter 6
#### Early Childhood: Psychosocial Development

1. Why do 2-year-olds have more sudden tempers, tears, and terrors that 6-Year-olds?
2. If a child never plays, is that a problem?
3. What happens if parents let their children do whatever they want?
4. What are the long-term effects of spanking children?
5. Do maltreated child always become abusive adults?

### Chapter 7
#### Middle Childhood: Body and Mind

1. Whose fault is it if a child is obese?
2. Why are math concepts difficulty at age 4 but much easier at age 8?
3. What is the best way to teach a child a new language?
4. Are schools in the United States similar to schools in other nations?
5. What causes a child to have autism?

### Chapter 8
#### Middle Childhood: Psychosocial Development

1. Why do children collect worthless things, life pebbles or unusable stamps?
2. Do children always suffer if their parents’ divorce?
3. Why are friends (more that teachers or parents) the best defense against bullies
4. How is it moral for a child to lie to protect another child who has done something wrong?
## Chapter 9: Adolescence: Body and Mind

### Quiz 4 Chapters 7-8

1. **What makes a particular child reach puberty early or late?**
2. **Why would any adolescent starve herself to death?**
3. **How can teenagers be both logical and impulsive**
4. **Why does bullying increase in middle school?**

## Chapter 10: Adolescence: Psychosocial Development

### Chapter 10

1. **Why do many teenagers find it hard to achieve sexual identity?**
2. **How could adolescent rebellion be considered a good sign?**
3. **Who is the best source for sex education during adolescence?**
4. **Is adolescent suicide rare, common, or an epidemic?**
5. **When does drug use become drug abuse?**

## Chapter 11: Emerging Adulthood: Body, Mind, and Social World

### Quiz 5 Chapters 9-10

**Due: Life Span Research Paper**

1. **When is it a problem to be fertile?**
2. **How can imagining other people’s stereotypes be harmful?**
3. **Does cohabitation precede, ruin, or substitutes for marriage?**
4. **Is independence from parents a sign of health adulthood?**

## Chapter 12: Adulthood: Body and Mind

### Chapter 12

1. **Why don’t people feel as old as they are?**
2. **Why are lung cancer rates decreasing in American men but increasing in American women?**
3. **Do adults get smarter or dumber from age 25 to age 65?**
4. **Is everyone an expert in something?**

### Chapter 13: Adulthood: Psychosocial Development

1. **Do adults still have the personality they had as infants?**
2. **When is it better to divorce that to stay married?**
3. **When is it better to be unemployed that to have a job?**
### 12/1 Chapter 14  Late Adulthood: Body and Mind

**Chapter 14**

1. What percentage of older people are in nursing homes?
2. At what age is it no longer possible to learn new things?
3. Is forgetting names the first sign of dementia?
4. Is wisdom always, sometimes, or never characteristic of the elderly? The young?

### 12/8 Chapter 15  Late Adulthood: Psychosocial Development

**Chapter 15**

1. Do older people become more depressed as time goes by?
2. Do the elderly hope to move to a distant, warm place?
3. What do adult children owe their elderly parents?
4. Is home care better than nursing home care?

### 12/15 FINAL EXAMINATION

*(Includes chapters 12, 13, 14, 15, + questions from the previous six quizzes)*
Course Requirements:
As you can see, usually we will be covering a chapter each week. Although our class time mostly will be devoted to the material in the chapters, we will be focusing on major issues surrounding each chapter topic. Details and minor topics will be left to you outside of the class. This is your class! Feel free to participate. You will get more out of it if you do.

Points Distribution:
The following items are assessed in this course to the value of the percentage shown:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>(Six@20 Points = 120)</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>(50 Points)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Behavioral Observation Data Form</td>
<td>(10 Points)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Behavioral Observation Narrative Report</td>
<td>(15 Points)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>(50 Points)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quality Participation (is encouraged)</td>
<td>(5 Points maximum)</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>250 points</strong></td>
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Course Marking Criteria

A  = (250-225 points) - excellent, distinctive work and sophisticated understanding-nuanced and insightful account, powerful and effective application of concepts

B  = (224-200 points) – good above average work and accomplished understanding, thorough, well-documented account; adequate and apt application of concepts, frameworks and theories.

C  = (199-175 points) – average, reasonable, sufficient work, but not distinctive, acceptable view with some misconceptions or oversight; not fully supported; acceptable but limited application of concepts, frameworks and theories.

D  = (174-150 points) insufficient work with naïve, limited or inadequate understanding, simplistic account and use of concepts, frameworks and theories discussed

F  = (<150 points) failure, unacceptable work

Your final course grade will be based on the estimated total points earned from the quizzes/final exam/behavioral observation reports/term paper, and any presentation and quality participation that you offer, which is considered punctual, enthusiastic and consistent class participation. Everything you do is converted to points. Your letter grade is based on percentages of an estimated 250 total points. *Assignments submitted late will be penalized 5% per day.

Multiple choice, true/false, and/or short answer quizzes will be given, usually bi-weekly. Although you are responsible for each chapter, you will find that significant material(s) will be presented in class. It will be easier for you to remain current in your studies by consistently previewing, reviewing text material, and related course resources.

Quizzes: There are no makeup quizzes. However, I realize that something could prevent you from coming to class such as transportation problems, illness, or a family emergency. If that should happen on a quiz day, you should email me in advance and leave a message.

For substitute credit [ONE TIME ONLY], you may write one (1) 300-word essay, for a maximum of 15 points. The topic of the essay should be related to one of the three developmental domains; biosocial, cognitive, or psychosocial, also be related to the material covered by the quiz.
Excused absences are not automatic. Final exam date is not negotiable. You need a valid reason to receive one and you may be required to provide documentation. You are encouraged to take notes from your textbook. You are allowed to use those notes when taking your quizzes, providing you follow the guidelines. Any deviation from these guidelines will be considered and an indication of academic dishonesty—cheating. All of your notes must be in a standard notebook that has your name on the cover in clear and legible lettering. Notes must be handwritten, not photocopied/computer generated notes. You will not pass this class if you do not at least read the material closely enough to take effective notes. I want you to leave this class with useful information in your head, and I will support you in these efforts.

Class Participation: You will benefit from regular and consistent participation in the courses learning objectives and in class exercises. This is a factor of your final grade.

Email correspondence: When contacting or emailing the instructor, always include the name of the class in the subject box and if your name does not appear on the inbox, please include it in the subject box.

**Supplemental Credit Exercises/Extra Credit (1 time only)**
Psychology 41, WLAC, fall 2014
Go to [www.worthpublishers.com/berger/invitation2e](http://www.worthpublishers.com/berger/invitation2e),
Click on textbook cover 2e to access student companion site.
Select a chapter, then either,

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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Applications, or</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Online Connections</td>
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Choose one exercise/answer/respond to questions/turn into the professor. *(Due by: 12/1/14)*

*(10 points maximum)*

**LaunchPad**

**Writing Assignments:**

I. The first will be a Behavioral Observation (B.O.).
This involves identifying a child, and conducting a short and detailed thirty-minute (30") observation of his/her behavior. **Your subject must be a child between the ages of four and ten, and should not be a family member.** Following the observation, you must then submit a report on your findings. The report will consist of two parts. The first (1) part is a data collection sheet, and the second (2) part will be a one-page narrative about the behaviors that you observed, particularly those that may coincide with theoretical and developmental milestones. We will be discussing what a Behavioral Observation is, during our class meetings. Your behavioral observation report must be typed and double-spaced.

II. The second assignment is a Library Research Paper.

**Your research paper should state in the introduction how the topic is related to one of the following three developmental domains; BIOSOCIAL, COGNITIVE, OR PSYCHOSOCIAL.**
The subject matter of this research paper will be your choice. Your possible topic choices are, but not limited to the following: Alcoholism, Adolescent Eating Disorders, Alzheimer’s Disease,

Your paper must be typed and double-spaced. It should identify a minimum of five (5) bibliographical references, be well written, proofread, and grammatically accurate. The length of the paper is exactly five pages, not including the bibliography. You will need to attach Xerox copies of two independent pages, from your primary reference sources. Late papers will not be accepted.

♦ Overall: 12pt New Times Roman, double spaced, 1 inch margins
♦ Title page: Include title, name, subject, date.
♦ Introduction: provide a paragraph or two of background information on the topic to set the scene. (I.e. why you selected this topic). State the aim of this paper. Describe the methods used to obtain the information required for this paper
♦ Review: State the exact nature of the lifespan issue and describe it in detail. Include relevant contextual information to clarify how the topic or issue arose (e.g. Historical, political, cultural, technical, etc.)
♦ Examine the impact of the topic on developmental processes.
♦ Describe the status of the topic as it fits into lifespan psychology.

Either of two formats (APA or MLA) can be used, to produce your research paper. I recommend that you visit the websites below for assistance in choosing and formatting your paper presentation.

WLAC Writing Lab
http://www.wlac.edu/library/info/lab_writing.html
http://www.questia.com/aboutQuestia/permPage.html,
http://www.aresearchguide.com,
http://www.apastyle.org,
http://www.mla.org/style_faq,
http://citationmachine-west.net/index.php,
http://college.hmco.com/collegesurvival/wong/essential_study/4e/students/interact_practice.html

General Information:

Keys to Success for WLAC students: The College offers programs to help students strive for excellence in their academic goals. these programs include computer assisted instruction, word processing, the internet, tutoring, learning center, writing center, as well as workshops and related classes in reading, writing, library resources and grammar. Students are urges to take advantage of these programs offer at the college. It is important to stay informed about the college's enrollment deadlines. If you should decide to stop attending class, it is your responsibility to be informed on college withdrawal procedures and deadlines.
Disabilities: If you have a specific and documented physical, sensory, or learning disability and would benefit from accommodations, please let me know early in the semester so that we can maximize your learning experience in this course. You will need to provide written documentation from the DSPS Office about your learning disability, and then I will be able and pleased to accommodate your needs.

http://www.wlac.edu/studentlife/index.html

**Academic Dishonesty Policy**

College study is the process of learning to be an independent scholar. All students are expected to do their own work. All forms of cheating and plagiarism are absolutely forbidden. This is the official policy of this class. Students found cheating will have their assignments marked zero for failure and may receive a failing grade for this course. Incidents of cheating will be reported to the Dean of Academic Affairs and the Vice-President of Student Services. Examples include, but are not limited to the following: Using unauthorized materials on exams, copying other student exams- Submitting any assigned work that is not the student's own, and Copying other written materials without proper credit to the original author- Downloading from computer networks without proper citation.

http://www.wlac.edu/academicsenate/documents/DASBestPracticesrACI_02232007.pdf

Part I (no points)
Lifespan Psychology 41, fall 2014
Behavioral Observation Proposal:
Please provide 3-4 sentences about whom you are going to observe.
Whom are you observing? ________________________________________________________
When are you observing? _______________________________________________________
Where are you observing? _______________________________________________________

Part II (max 10 points)
Data Sheet: Multiple Behaviors (what is a behavior?)
Person observed: _______________________________  Date: ________
Behavior 1___________________________________________________________
Behavior 2__________________________________________________________
Behavior 3__________________________________________________________
Time Periods _______________________________________________________________
Total time (minutes):_____________________________________________________

Behavioral observation and developmental milestones: Upon reviewing your observation, you
might/may be able to detect evidence of some of these theoretical excerpts outlined below:
❖ Freud's Psychosexual and Erickson’s Psychosocial Stages
  • 3-6 Years
    o Freud: Phallic Stage
    o Erickson: Initiative Vs Guilt
  • 7-11 Years
    o Freud: Latency
    o Erickson: Industry Vs Inferiority
❖ Piaget's Periods Of Cognitive Development
  • 2-6 Years Preoperational
  • 7-11 Years Concrete Operational
Part III (max 15 points)
Behavioral Observation Narrative

This narrative should include discussion about any developmental milestones [Freudian, Piagetian, Eriksonian, and Vygotskian] that you observed related to the biosocial, psychosocial development of the child [4-11 years of age].

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Please respond to the following questions, as they will assist me in the ongoing instruction of the course. Thank you.

Name: ____________________________

What is your major? ____________________________

HS completed? ____________________________
AA/AS completed? ____________________________
BA/BS completed? ____________________________
Masters completed? ____________________________
Other completed? ____________________________

What previous psychology courses have you completed?
(Where? when?)

__________________________________________________________________________
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Why are you taking this course?
(And what keeps you interested in a course?)

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What interests you most about lifespan psychology?

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