

PSYC 314.001: Adolescent Psychology  
MWF 11:30am-12:20, RB124

Instructor: Katie Whittaker

E-mail address: [kwhittak@gmu.edu](mailto:kwhittak@gmu.edu) (best way to reach me)

Office: Thompson 131

Phone:

Office Hours: TR from 2:00-3:00

Required Text: Santrock, J.W. (2005). *Adolescence*, 11<sup>th</sup> ed. Boston: McGraw-Hill.

**Course Goals:**

- To understand theories of the adolescent developmental stage.
- To understand cognitive, psychological, biological and social changes that occur during adolescence.
- To understand cultural influences on adolescent development.
- To understand normative development in adolescence, and examine some problems that can arise during this life stage.

**Policies:**

- Attendance is very important; material discussed in class that is not in the text may be on the exams.
- Readings are expected to be completed PRIOR to class.
- No make-up exams will be allowed, one exam grade will be dropped, so if you miss an exam that will be the one that is dropped.

**Honor Code:**

STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE FAMILIAR WITH AND TO FOLLOW THE **GMU HONOR POLICY**. All work should be your own and should be cited properly using APA format. Students should be advised that the honor code specifically applies to and has enforced disciplinary procedures for:

- Plagiarism
- Lying (to administration or faculty) or falsifying documents
- Cheating or attempted cheating
- Stealing

Please review the honor code: <http://mason.gmu.edu/~montecin/plagiarism.htm>

**DISABILITIES RESOURCES:**

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

## **Exams**

Exams will cover both in class lectures/ videos and readings from the text. Exams 1-4 will cover the chapters denoted in the class-by-class outline below. Each exam will consist of multiple choice questions, short answer and true-false questions. Each exam is worth 100 points. Your lowest exam grade will be dropped.

## **Presentation**

Each student will participate in a group presentation that is worth 50 points. The presentation group will be assigned the second week of class. Throughout the semester we will watch videos that depict aspects of adolescent life and development. Each group will be assigned a video that they will relate to a topic discussed in class. The groups are to present how the movie illustrated corresponding topics from the chapter assigned with the video (15 points). They are to discuss how accurate the video was in portraying adolescent development (15 points). Each group will create a hand-out OR visual aid that discusses a topic from the book that is illustrated by the movie (I will assign topics) (10 points). Each group presentation should last 15-20 minutes. Each group will also create five possible exam questions (and answers) to give to me for use on exams (10 points).

## **Quizzes**

Five quizzes are located on webct at <https://webct41.gmu.edu>. These quizzes are to be completed and submitted on-line. Each quiz is worth 10 points. The quizzes cover material found in the text. You may use your textbook for the quizzes; HOWEVER, they should be completed individually. You may complete each quiz at your own pace (i.e. do all 5 at the beginning of the semester), but they must be completed by the dates noted on the class-by-class outline below.

## **Extra Credit**

You can earn up to 5 points of extra credit by participating in psychological research or attending any seminar/ lecture/ presentation that relates to adolescent psychology.

**Final Grade Determination:**

Your final grade in this class will be determined by the following:

- 4 exams (100 points each), lowest grade dropped
- 1 presentation (50 points)
- 5 quizzes on reading (10 points each)

300 points (exams) + 50 points (presentation) + 50 points (quizzes)= 400 points

- A (360 points-400 points)  
 B (320 points-359 points)  
 C (280 points-319 points)  
 D (240 points-279 points)  
 F (239 points and below)

<b>Date</b>	<b>In-Class</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
Mon 8/28	Intro & Syllabus	Read Ch.1
Wed 8/30	Theories of Adolescence	Read Ch.2
Fri 9/1	Theories of Adolescence	
Mon 9/4	<b>NO CLASS-LABOR DAY</b>	
Wed 9/6	Theories of Adolescence	Read Ch.3
Fri 9/8	Puberty	
Mon 9/11 <b>*Tomorrow 9/12 is last day to add*</b>	Puberty	
Wed 9/13	<b>EXAM 1</b>	Read Ch. 4
Fri 9/15	Cognitive Development	
Mon 9/18	Cognitive Development	Read Ch.5
Wed 9/20	Identity	
Fri 9/22	Identity	Read Ch. 6
Mon 9/25	Gender	
Wed 9/27	Gender	
Fri 9/29 <b>*Last day to Drop*</b>	<i>Movie: Kids</i>	
Mon 10/2	<i>Movie: Kids</i>	Read Ch.7
Wed 10/4	Sexuality	
Fri 10/6	<b>NO CLASS</b>	
Mon 10/9	<b>NO CLASS-COLUMBUS DAY</b>	
<b>TUES 10/10 (Monday classes meet today)</b>	Group 1 presents: " <i>Kids</i> " and <i>Sexual Literacy/Sex Education</i> Sexuality	
Wed 10/11	<b>EXAM 2</b>	
Fri 10/13	<i>Movie: The United States of Leland</i>	
Mon 10/16	<i>Movie: The United States of Leland</i>	Read Ch.8

Wed 10/18	Moral Development	
Fri 10/20	Group 2 presents: <i>“The United States of Leland and Kohlberg’s Theory of Moral Development”</i>	
Mon 10/23	<b>Movie: Anywhere but Here</b>	
Wed 10/25	<b>Movie: Anywhere but Here</b>	Read Ch.9
Fri 10/27	Families	
Mon 10/30	Families	
Wed 11/1	Group 3 presents: <i>“Anywhere but Here” and Parent-Adolescent Relationships</i>	
Fri 11/3	<b>Movie: Thirteen</b>	
Mon 11/6	<b>Movie: Thirteen</b>	Read Ch. 10
Wed 11/8	Peers	
Fri 11/10	Peers	
Mon 11/13	Group 4 presents: <i>“Thirteen” and Peer Conformity</i>	
Wed 11/15	<b>EXAM 3</b>	Read Ch. 11
Fri 11/17	Schools	
Mon 11/20	Schools	
Wed 11/22	<b>NO CLASS-Thanksgiving</b>	
Fri 11/24	<b>NO CLASS-Thanksgiving</b>	Read Ch. 12
Mon 11/27	Work and Achievement	
Wed 11/29	Work and Achievement	
Fri 12/1	<b>Movie: Manic</b>	
Mon 12/4	<b>Movie: Manic</b>	Read Ch. 14
Wed 12/6	Culture and Adolescent Problems	
Fri 12/8	Group 5 presents: <i>“Manic” and Mental Illness in Adolescence</i>	
Mon 12/11	<b>NO CLASS</b>	
Wed 12/13	<b>NO CLASS</b>	
Fri 12/15	<b>FINAL EXAM @ 10:30</b>	