

PSYC 314.002: Adolescent Psychology
TR 7:30am-8:45, RA247

Instructor: Katie Whittaker

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Office: Thompson 131

Phone:

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

Required Text: Santrock, J.W. (2005). *Adolescence*, 11th 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)

Date	In-Class	Assignment
Tues 8/29	Intro & Syllabus	Read Ch.1
Thurs 8/31	Theories of Adolescence	Read Ch.2
Tues 9/5	Theories of Adolescence	Read Ch.3
Thurs 9/7	Puberty	
Tues 9/12 *Last day to add*	Puberty	
Thurs 9/14	EXAM 1 (1-3)	Read Ch.4
Tues 9/19	Cognitive Development	Read Ch.5
Thurs 9/21	Identity	Read Ch.6
Tues 9/26	Gender	
Thurs 9/28 *Tomorrow (9/29) is last day to drop*	<i>Movie: Kids</i>	Read Ch.7
Tues 10/3	<i>Movie: Kids</i> Sexuality	
Thurs 10/5	Group 1 presents: " <i>Kids</i> " and <i>Sexual Literacy/Sex Education</i> Sexuality	
Tues 10/10	Go to your MONDAY classes today. We do not meet b/c of Columbus Day	
Thurs 10/12	EXAM 2 (4-7)	
Tues 10/17	<i>Movie: The United States of Leland</i>	Read Ch. 8
Thurs 10/19	<i>Movie: The United States of Leland</i> Moral Development	
Tues 10/24	Group 2 presents: " <i>The United States of Leland and Kohlberg's Theory of Moral Development</i> "	

Thurs 10/26	Movie: <i>Anywhere but Here</i>	Read Ch. 9
Tues 10/31	Movie: <i>Anywhere but Here</i> Families	
Thurs 11/2	Group 3 presents: " <i>Anywhere but Here</i> " and <i>Parent-Adolescent Relationships</i>	
Tues 11/7	Movie: <i>Thirteen</i>	Read Ch.10
Thurs 11/9	Movie: <i>Thirteen</i> Peers	
Tues 11/14	Group 4 presents: " <i>Thirteen</i> " and <i>Peer Conformity</i>	
Thurs 11/16	EXAM 3 (8-10)	Read Ch. 11
Tues 11/21	Schools	
Thurs 11/23	No class-Thanksgiving Break	Read Ch. 12
Tues 11/28	Work and Achievement	
Thurs 11/30	Movie: <i>Manic</i>	Read Ch. 14
Tues 12/5	Movie: <i>Manic</i> Culture and Adolescent Problems	
Thurs 12/7	Group 5 presents: " <i>Manic</i> " and <i>Mental Illness in Adolescence</i>	
Tues 12/12	NO CLASS	
Thurs 12/14	FINAL EXAM 7:30am	