

PSYC 314.002: Adolescent Psychology
TR 3:00-4:15, RB203

Instructor: Katie Whittaker

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

Office: Psyc clinic, directions to be given in class

Phone: (703) 359-2885

Office Hours: TR from 12:30-1:30

Required Text: Rice, F.P., & Dolgin, K.G. (2005). *The Adolescent: Development, Relationships and Culture, 11th ed.* Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

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 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. EVERYONE MUST take the final exam; the final grade will not be 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. Journal articles will be assigned that are available on-line and they may also be on the exams. Exams 1-3 will cover the chapters denoted in the class-by-class outline below. The final exam will focus mainly on material from the last fourth of the course, but will have some cumulative information on it. Each exam will consist of multiple choice questions, short answer and essay-type questions. Each exam is worth 100 points. Your lowest exam grade will be dropped. The final exam grade may not 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. Each group will be assigned a specific topic related to adolescent psychology. Grading criteria for the presentation is posted on webct.

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 1/24 | Introduction, Syllabus | Read Ch. 1 |
| Thurs 1/26 | Research | Read Ch. 2 |
| Tues 1/31 | Theories of Adolescence | |
| Thurs 2/2 | Theories of Adolescence | Read Ch. 3 |
| Tues 2/7 <i>*Last Day to Add*</i> | Diversity in Adolescence: SES and Ethnic Influences | |
| Thurs 2/9 | Diversity in Adolescence: SES and Ethnic Influences | Last Day to submit Quiz 1 Read Ch. 4 & 5 |
| Tues 2/14 | Biology: Sexual Maturation & Physical Growth; Health Behaviors | |
| Thurs 2/16 | Biology: Sexual Maturation & Physical Growth; Health Behaviors | |
| Tues 2/21 | EXAM 1 (Ch 1-5) | Read Ch. 6 & 7 |
| Thurs 2/23 <i>*Last Day to Drop is Tomorrow (2/24)*</i> | Cognitive Development Group 1 Presentation | |
| Tues 2/28 | Cognitive Development | Read Ch. 8 |
| Thurs 3/2 | Identity, Ethnicity & Gender Group 2 Presentation | Last Day to Submit Quiz 2 Read Ch. 10 & 11 |
| Tues 3/7 | Family Group 3 Presentation | |
| Thurs 3/9 | Family | |
| Tues 3/14 | SPRING BREAK! | |
| Thurs 3/16 | SPRING BREAK! | |
| Tues 3/21 | EXAM 2 (Ch 6-8, 10-11) | Read Ch. 9 |
| Thurs 3/23 | Sexual Value and Behavior Group 4 Presentation | Last Day to Submit Quiz 3 |
| Tues 3/28 | Sexual Value and Behavior | Read Ch. 12 |
| Thurs 3/30 | Social Development Group 5 Presentation | |
| Tues 4/4 | Social Development | Read Ch. 14 |
| Thurs 4/6 | Moral Development Group 6 Presentation | |
| Tues 4/11 | Moral Development | Read Ch. 15 |
| Thurs 4/13 | School Group 7 Presentation | Last Day to Submit Quiz 4 |
| Tues 4/18 | School | |
| Thurs 4/20 | EXAM 3 (Ch 9, 12, 14-15) | Read Ch. 16 |
| Tues 4/25 | Work and Vocation Group 8 Presentation | |
| Thurs 4/27 | Work and Vocation | Read Ch. 18 |

| | | |
|------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Tues 5/2 | Substance Abuse Group 9 Presentation | |
| Thurs 5/4 | Substance Abuse | Last Day to Submit Quiz 5 |
| Thurs 5/11 | NO CLASS | |
| Tues 5/16 | FINAL @ 1:30 | |