

Adolescent Development (PSYC 314-003)

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Class: Krug Hall, Rm 7; Tuesdays, 7:20-10:00 pm

Office: Thompson Rm 131; Tuesdays, 6:30pm- 7:20 pm

Purpose of the course: This course will examine the emotional, cognitive, social and physical development that occurs during adolescence. In addition, multicultural research and perspectives will be considered in the discussions and research. Additionally, this class hopes to create an environment in which to discuss, debate and explore the information presented as well as student's knowledge and experiences.

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

Additional readings available online may be suggested.

Technology used: You should have access to the internet and an email address for this course.

Office Hours: Tuesday, right before class, or by appointment. Easiest way to contact me is by email.

Course Requirements: Your final grade will be determined by the following:

1. Exams 1,2,3

83 pts each; 250 total (50% of grade)

Exams are non-cumulative and will consist of approx. 45 multiple-choice questions (worth 2 pts each) and either 5 short answer questions (worth 10 pts total) or an essay (worth 10 pts).

Typically there is a choice among essays or short answer questions.

2. Paper:

100 pts (20% of grade)

Each student will do one paper. Choose a topic within Adolescent Development (such as: a theory of adolescence or a topic within adolescence (e.g. timing of maturation, substance abuse in adolescence, ethnic differences in adolescents and their families, eating disorders in adolescents, internet use and adolescents, etc.). Find 5 empirical sources (at least 3 journal articles are required sources; do not cite other textbooks as sources) and list the sources at the end of your paper. Try to integrate one theory we have discussed in class as you consider the research. Use APA format for the paper. Papers must be typed. Papers will be evaluated on how well you organize the paper, writing, and presentation of the findings from the sources.

3. Interview with an Adolescent:

100 pts (20% of grade)

You are to find an adolescent to interview for 45 minutes. The adolescent should be between the ages of 12 and 20. The person interviewed should not be a friend or someone you know well. A neighbor, family friend, or someone you know through a friend would be suitable. Assure the adolescent that the interview is confidential. (seen by you and me) A list of interview questions will be handed out in class. Try to make

the person comfortable during the interview. Conduct the interview in a neutral space. Do a brief write-up (3 pages at most) about the interview experience. You should get the parents' permission in writing to conduct the interview. Finally, you will prepare a brief presentation (guarding the individual's identifying information) about your interview experience for the class. These will be presented at the end of the semester.

4. Class Participation:

50 pts (10% of grade)

Attendance and class participation are an important part of your grade in this course. We will discuss many issues in the curriculum in both larger class discussions and small groups. You are encouraged to contribute in this way. Both attendance (7%) and participation (7%) will make up these points.

The **grading scale** is:

485-500 pts = A+

420-434 pts = B

350-369 pts = C-

470-484 pts = A

400-419 pts = B-

300-349 pts = D

450-469 pts = A-

385-399 pts = C+

299 pts or less = F

435-449 pts = B+

370-384 pts = C

< 239 pts = F

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.*

ADD/DROP DEADLINES:

Last day to add - Feb. 7th

Last day to drop - Feb. 24th

OTHER INFO:

Make-up exam policy: Approval to take a make-up exam must be obtained IN ADVANCE from the professor. Make-up exams will be given only during times scheduled by the Psychology Department or myself. NO EXCEPTIONS!

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES:

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Chapter</i>
1/24	<i>Introduction and Course Overview How is Adolescence Studied Theories of Adolescence</i>	1 & 2
1/31	<i>Diversity in Adolescence SES and Ethnic Influence</i>	3
2/7	<i>Biology: Sexual Maturation & Physical Growth; Health Behaviors</i>	4 & 5
2/14	Exam 1 (first half of class- 7:20-8:45)	
2/21	<i>Cognitive Development</i>	6 & 7
2/28	<i>Identity, Ethnicity & Gender</i>	8
3/7	Spring Break – No Class	
3/14	<i>The Family</i>	10 & 11
3/21	<i>Sexual Values & Behavior</i>	9
3/28	Exam 2 (first half of class – 7:20-8:45)	
4/4	<i>Social Development TERM PAPERS DUE</i>	12
4/11	<i>Moral Development</i>	14
4/18	<i>School Presentations</i>	15
4/25	<i>Work & Vocation Adolescent Interview write-ups due Presentations</i>	16
5/9	FINAL EXAM	7:30 pm – 10:15 pm