

PSYC 314: Adolescent Psychology  
Summer (Session B) 2006

Instructor: Todd M Wyatt [[twyatt1@gmu.edu](mailto:twyatt1@gmu.edu)]

Class Location: Innovation Hall 133

Meeting time: MW 7:20-10:00pm

Office: Child Development Lab, David King Hall 1021 (703-993-1378)

Office hours: Wed. 2-3pm or by appointment

**Course objective:** This course will examine the emotional, cognitive, social and physical development that occurs during adolescence. Students will gain an understanding of early to current theories of adolescent development in addition to reviewing current empirical research about various topics of interest. In addition, the class is structured in an attempt to create an environment in which to discuss, debate and explore the information presented as well as student's knowledge and experiences.

**Required text:** Adolescence 11<sup>th</sup> ed. (2007) by John W. Santrock McGraw-Hill;  
ISBN: 0073228753.

**Class Organization/Participation:** Students are expected to attend all scheduled class meetings. Students are responsible for all material and announcements presented in class, including announcements about changes in the schedule and assignments. Class time will be used as a platform for interactive discussion of current topics and readings. Lecture will be taken from various resources including the required text in addition to other empirical readings from psychological journals. Although attendance will not be taken into account per say, participation is. Class participation can be defined as coming to class with assigned class readings completed, discussion topics/ questions prepared, and willingness to participate during the entirety of the class.

**Exams:** There will be three exams throughout the semester. The exams will cover material covered in class lecture as well as the readings assigned. Exams will offer a variety of formats (e.g. multiple choice, short answer, essay, etc.). If classes are cancelled on a test day for any reason, then the test will be given on the first day classes resume.

**Exam make-up policy:** The following policy refers to all scheduled exams. Not included in this policy are exams taken ahead of time (through arrangement with the professor). There will be no exam make-ups or extensions without penalty except in instances such as the following:

- hospitalization or illness that has been documented and judged by your instructor as preventing you from (a) preparing adequately for a test or (b) sitting for a test
- death or serious illness in your family
- court appearances

Documentation must be provided by health officials (e.g., a physician or member of the student center health staff) in the case of illness; an immediate family member in the case of a death or serious illness in the family; and official paperwork in the case of court

dates. Students failing to produce such documentation will be penalized at least one full letter grade. Decisions about whether and when to allow a student to make up an exam will be made on a case-by-case basis.

**Paper:** Each student will be expected to complete one scholarly paper. Choose a topic within the domain of 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.). All topics are subject to approval from professor. You will be expected to locate 8 empirical sources (at least 5 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 (Further information will be provided about the format of the paper, due dates etc. during class).

**Evaluation and Grades:** The final grade will be based on a total of 400 points as follows:

Class participation, Quizzes & Special Projects	62 points(12% of final grade)
Exams 3 (@ 90 points each)	270 points (53% of final grade)
Paper rough draft, & literature review	70 points (14% of final grade)
Final paper	110 points (21% of final grade)
	<b>= 512 total possible points</b>

A grade of B denotes work that surpasses basic course objectives and is considered a mark of distinction. Work exceeding this standard receives an A. Grades will be assigned according to the following points (percentages are only approximate):

A+ = 512-494 (100-97%)	A = 493-474 (96-93%)	A- = 473-461 (92-90%)
B+ = 460- 446 (89-87%)	B = 445-425 (86-83%)	B- = 424-410 (82-80%)
C+ = 409-395 (79-77%)	C = 394-374 (76-73%)	C- = 373-359 (72-70%)
D = 358- 308 (69-60%)	F = below 308 (below 60%)	

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.

**COURSE SCHEDULE (Subject to change)**

**Chapters are listed from textbook.**

- Mon. June 5                      The nature and science of adolescent development
- Wed. June 7                      Puberty and biological development/ Cognitive Development (**Paper Topic Approval; Bring topic to class; See above for paper guidelines**)
- Mon. June 12                      Cognitive Development
- Wed. June 14                      Cognitive Development (**Literature Review Due**)
- (June 14<sup>th</sup>: Last day to add & Last day to drop with no tuition liability )
- Mon. June 19                      Exam #1 on Chapters 1,2,3 &4**
- Wed. June 21                      The Self, Identity, Emotions and Personality
- (June 21<sup>st</sup>: LAST DAY TO Drop)
- Mon. June 26                      The Self and Identity / Gender
- Wed. June 28                      Gender & Sexuality
- Mon. July 3                      Gender & Sexuality (**Rough Draft of Paper Due**)
- Wed. July 5                      Moral Development, Values and Religion
- Mon. July 10                      Families & Peers
- Wed. July 12                      Exam # 2 on Chapters 5-10**
- Mon. July 17                      Schools, Adolescent Problems, & Stress
- Wed. July 19                      Adolescent Problems and Stress (**Final Paper Due at beginning of class. No emailed copies, No copies in my box.**)
- Mon. July. 24                      Health Stress and Coping / Culture
- Fri. July 26 (FINAL EXAM @ 7:30-10:15) on chapters 11, 14, 15, 12 & additional material from throughout the semester**