

Psychology 314
Adolescent Psychology
Spring 2010
Section 001

Instructor: Deepti Gupta

E-mail: dgupta2@gmu.edu

Office: David King Hall Room 1020P

Office Hours: Fridays, 11:30am-12:30pm or by appointment (via email)

Meeting Time: MWF 10:30am - 11:20am

Classroom: Innovation Rm206

Course Objectives:

Through the course of this semester students will develop an understanding of adolescents' cognitive, biological, psychological and emotional development. Students will be given a better understanding of culture specific issues involved with adolescence with the hopes of developing sensitivity to these issues. Students will also be given the opportunity to examine the developmental issues that can be involved with adolescence.

Required Texts:

Adolescence and Emerging Adulthood: A Cultural Approach (4th Edition)

Author: Jeffery Jensen Arnett

A Tribe Apart (ATA)

Author: Patricia Hersch

Course Requirements: Your grade will be comprised of exams, reflection papers, presentations, discussion leading, and participation and attendance.

Exams: Three exams will be given during the course of the semester. Students will be responsible for all material covered in the texts, in lectures, and in discussions. If a student is unable to attend an exam for whatever reason they need to make arrangements with the instructor PRIOR to the exam date. Makeup exams will not be given after the exam date.

Group Project: Each group of 4 students will be required to create their own school over the course of the semester. It will be required that each group as a collective effort gives a 20 minute presentation at the end of the semester. In addition each individual will need to hand in a one page self-evaluation. More information will be given on this project at a later date.

Discussion Leading: Throughout the semester we will be reading *A Tribe Apart* (ATA). Students will be assigned groups and characters in the book, and will be expected to lead group discussions on the days that we read the characters that they are responsible for. Each group is expected to turn in a typed summary of the discussion to be posted on Blackboard. Half of your grade will be a group grade that I will assign based on the questions that you turn in and the outcome of the discussion, the other half of your grade will be given to you by the other members in your group.

Reflection Papers: Students will be required to complete a one page double-spaced reflection on each of the *A Tribe Apart* characters. The papers will need to be handed

in on the day that we discuss the respective characters in class. The reflections should include: a comprehensive summary of the character, the relevance of the character to the topic being discussed in class, and the student's reflections on the character/readings. The paper should be ONE page long only.

Participation & Attendance: As this course is heavily reliant on participation and discussion, it is expected that students will actively participate in all class sessions.

Grading and Evaluation: Your final grade will be based on a total of 100 points:

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Exams- | 60pts (20pts each) |
| Reflection Papers- | 10pts (avg. across all 8 characters) |
| Group Presentation- | 20pts |
| Discussion Leading- | 5pts |
| Participation & Attendance- | <u>5pts</u> |
| | 100pts Total |

Late Assignments: Late assignments will not be accepted.

Technology: All students are expected to have an active George Mason University e-mail account. I will periodically use this account to contact you during the course of the semester, and you will be held responsible for the content of those e-mails. Students will also be held responsible for all information posted on Blackboard. If students are unfamiliar with or unable to access Blackboard, it is their responsibility to contact the instructor for assistance.

Assignments: Assignments may be turned in as a hard copy in class or via the Blackboard assignments tab, however they must be posted on Blackboard before the beginning of the class in which they are due

Professionalism: Please only e-mail the instructor through your George Mason University e-mail account. When sending an e-mail to the professor please be professional (i.e. use salutations, correct spelling, proper capitalizations)

Honor Code: Students are expected to be aware of and follow the provisions of the George Mason University Honor Code. The policy is listed in the university catalog.

Students with Disabilities: 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.

IMPORTANT DATES

January 18, 2010

February 2, 2010

February 19, 2010

February 22 – March 26, 2010

March 8-14, 2010

May 3, 2010

Martin Luther King Day – University Closed

Last Day to Add (Full Semester Course)

Last Day to Drop (Full Semester Course)

Selective Withdrawal Period (Full Semester Course)

Spring Break

Last Day of Classes

Schedule*:

| Date | Theme | Reading | Assignments |
|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1/20 | Class Introduction | Syllabus | |
| 1/22 | Introduction | Chapter 1 | Read ATA prologue |
| 1/25 | Biological Foundations | Chapter 2 | |
| 1/27 | Biological Foundations | Chapter 2 | |
| 1/29 | Prep. for Discussions | | Group-making |
| 2/1 | Cognitive Development | Chapter 3 | |
| 2/3 | Cognitive Development | Chapter 3 | |
| 2/5 | Discussion 1 | Jonathan (ATA 5, 14, 22) | Jonathan Reflection |
| 2/8 | Cultural Beliefs | Chapter 4 | |
| 2/10 | Cultural Beliefs | Chapter 4 | |
| 2/12 | Discussion 2 | Joan (ATA 6, 13, 21) | Joan Reflection |
| 2/15 | Gender | Chapter 5 | |
| 2/17 | Gender | Chapter 5 | <i>Movie</i> |
| 2/19 | EXAM 1 | | |
| 2/22 | The Self | Chapter 6 | |
| 2/24 | The Self | Chapter 6 | |
| 2/26 | Discussion 3 | Charles (ATA 4, 11, 19) | Charles Reflection |
| 3/1 | Family | Chapter 7 | |
| 3/3 | Family | Chapter 7 | |
| 3/5 | Discussion 4 | Ann (ATA 6, 12, 20) | Ann Reflection |
| 3/8 – 3/14 | SPRING BREAK | | |
| 3/15 | Friends and Peers | Chapter 8 | |
| 3/17 | Friends and Peers | Chapter 8 | <i>Movie</i> |
| 3/19 | Discussion 5 | Jessica (ATA 2, 8, 16) | Jessica Reflection |
| 3/22 | Dating, Love & Sex | Chapter 9 | |
| 3/24 | Dating, Love & Sex | Chapter 9 | |
| 3/26 | Discussion 6 | Courtney (ATA 3, 10, 18) | Courtney Reflection |
| 3/29 | EXAM 2 | | |
| 3/31 | School | Chapter 10 | |
| 4/2 | School | Chapter 10 | |
| 4/5 | Work | Chapter 11 | |

| | | | |
|------------|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 4/7 | Work | Chapter 11 | |
| 4/9 | Discussion 7 | Chris (ATA 1, 7, 15) | Chris Reflection |
| 4/12 | Problem Behaviors | Chapter 13 | |
| 4/14 | Problem Behaviors | Chapter 13 | |
| 4/16 | Discussion 8 | Brendon (ATA 3, 9, 17) | Brendon Reflection |
| 4/19 | Media | Chapter 12 | |
| 4/21 | Media | Chapter 12 | |
| 4/23 | Discussion 9 | Article (TBA) | |
| 4/26 | Group Presentations | | |
| 4/28 | Group Presentations | | |
| 4/30 | Group Presentations | | |
| 5/3 | Course Review | | |
| 5/5 | Final – EXAM 3 | 10:30am-1:15pm | In class exam |

*Schedule is subject to change

Tips for Success in this Course:

Attend Class: Not only is attendance a factor in your final grade, but you will also find that there will be material covered in class that will not be in the textbook. Attending class will also give you the opportunity to get any of your questions answered.

Read the Text: Reading the course texts will be essential for understanding the course material. It will also give you the opportunity to experience the material in a different media. It will be assumed that you have completed the readings before class, and that you will be able to discuss the material that you have read. Taking notes on the readings will also assist you with taking notes in class.

Take Notes in Class: Coming to class prepared to take notes will be in your best interest. While taking notes you should not focus on writing the instructor's words verbatim. Your notes should be written in a way that you can reference them at a later date and remember what was said about the topic. If you would like additional tips on note taking, please visit the counseling center.

Manage Your Time Efficiently: Do not wait until the last minute to start a class assignment, or to contact your group members. Starting your work early allows you to spend the appropriate amount of time on the assignment, and it allows you to contact the instructor if you have any questions.

Check Blackboard and Your E-mail Regularly: In order to be in the know about changes in the schedule, assignments, and other information about the class it will be necessary for you to check your e-mail and Blackboard regularly. Supplementary course material for the course will also be distributed through these outlets.

Come See Me: I will be available before or after class, however due to time constraints and the personal nature of some issues, it may be best for you to come to my office hours. If you are unable to make my office hours, please contact me to schedule an appointment at another time.