Course Objectives:
This course explores the central concepts of adolescent development. The course will review the history of the study of adolescence and will touch on the major theories that have arisen from developmental research. Additional topics will include physical, social, and emotional development in adolescence. The course will also discuss the problems that adolescents face in contemporary culture.

Required Texts:
Author: Jeffery Jensen Arnett

Course Requirements: Your grade will be comprised of exams, presentations, a paper, 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.

Movie Critique Paper: Movies featuring adolescents or addressing issues that adolescents face have become increasingly popular in the last twenty-five years. Some of these movies have been accurate in their depiction of adolescents and adolescence while others have not. In this assignment you will be asked to choose from a list of movies (posted on BB) and critically and thoughtfully examine the ways that developmental theories and concepts about adolescence are portrayed. Further information about this paper will be discussed in class.

Presentation: In conjunction with their final paper, students will give a 10 to 15 minute presentation addressing the issues raised in their paper and their analysis of the adolescent-themed movie.

Participation & Attendance: As this course is heavily reliant on participation and discussion, it is expected that students will actively participate in all class sessions.
Important Dates:
- Add/Drop deadline for C session classes: July 11th
- Final drop deadline: July 18th
- Final Exam: August 4th, 1:30 – 4:15

Grading and Evaluation: Your final grade will be based on a total of 100 points:
- Exams: 60pts (20pts each)
- Movie Critique Paper: 25 pts
- Presentation: 10pts
- Participation & Attendance: 5pts
  Total: 100pts

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.

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.

Life is stressful and we all need a little support sometimes. Students are encouraged to contact counseling services (364 Student Union I) at 993-2385 for assistance with any kind of psychological/life problem or crisis situation.
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.

**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. 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 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.