**Instructor:** Sammi Karalus, Ph.D.

**Email:** [splourd2@masonlive.gmu.edu](mailto:splourd2@masonlive.gmu.edu)

**Office:** Fenwick Library

**Office Hours:** Monday and Tuesday 6:00 – 7:00, by appointment only

**The following text is required:**

Arnett: Adolescence and Emerging Adulthood, 6th edition: ISBN 9780134596877

### Course Description:

Adolescence is a developmental period characterized by significant changes. This course examines the biological, psychological, and social changes of adolescence and the consequences of these for youth’s normal (and abnormal) cognitive, behavioral, and emotional development.

### Additional Information:

**Cancellations:**  If I need to cancel class, I will let the class know as soon as possible. Students will be given an open book assignment to complete outside of class.  
 **Honor Code:**

Students in this course are expected to behave at all times in a manner consistent with the GMU Honor System and Code. (<http://mason.gmu.edu/~montecin/plagiarism.htm>). Students are encouraged to study together as much as possible throughout the course, however, no assistance, sharing of information, or discussion of exam items or answers between students may take place. For all work, the name that appears on the paper must be the author. Violations of the Honor Code will not be tolerated in this course and will be immediately reported according to GMU procedures. The instructor reserves the right to use software to determine the extent to which the work is the student’s. The instructor for this course also reserves the right to enter a failing grade to any student found guilty of an honor code violation.

**Disability Accommodations:**

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disabilities Services (ODS) at (703) 993-2474.  All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

**The deadlines for adding and dropping classes are as follow:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Last Day to Add/Drop (no tuition liability) | Final Drop   Deadline (100% liability) | Selective Withdrawal Period  (100% liability) |
| 9/3 | 9/9 | 9/17 |

**Technology**

Official communication will be conducted only through Mason email addresses and Blackboard. Please check your email regularly to ensure that you are up to date on course happenings.

**Grading:**

**Exams (45% - three at 15% each)**

There will be four exams throughout the course. Three exams will be given during the regular time as outlined in the timeline of the syllabus, and a fourth exam during the exam period. These exams will be delivered through Blackboard. Exams will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. You may use your notes and your books, but not your classmates to take the exams. Additionally, unless disability accommodations are needed, the exams will be two-hour timed tests. They will be open on BlackBoard for a week until the due date and will close at 11:59 PM that day. I *strongly* encourage you to take the exam before the deadline, as there can sometimes be issues with BlackBoard. **You may drop the lowest test grade, thus only three exams count toward the final grade. As such, no make ups will be given except in cases mandated by university policy.**

**Interview Assignment (45% Paper 25%; Presentation 20%)**

* You are required to complete an interview assignment. You will interview an adolescent or emerging adult of your choice and write a short paper on your discussions by focusing on theories, themes, and ideas provided in the text. You will be asked to choose three constructs to focus on (i.e. social, identity, parents, gender, friendships, psychosocial problems, etc.).
* You will be graded on your ability to describe your interview and link findings to the textbook or class material. The paper should be 4-5 pages double-spaced, times new roman, 12-point font. Please also include a transcript of the actual interview and your notes. A detailed rubric and description will be posted on blackboard.
* You will also be asked to give a brief 5-minute presentation highlighting the main points of your paper.

**Participation (10%)**

Class attendance will be taken each class. This class will be a combination of lecture and class discussion. It is important that you come to class prepared and ready for discussion. Key ideas and concepts are explained and discussed in class, so attendance is crucial. I appreciate and encourage your participation in this course. Students may miss **two classes** without being penalized. Thus, excused absences would have to account for 3 or more classes in order to be worthy of reporting.

Grades will be calculated based on the following scale

A+=100-97% B+ = 89-87% C+ = 79-77% D+ = 69-67% F =<60%

A = 96-93% B = 86-83% C = 76-73% D = 66-63%

A- = 92-90% B- = 82-80% C- = 72-70% D- = 62-60%

**Course schedule**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Topic | Assignment (due before class) |
| 8/27 | Syllabus Introduction | N/A |
|  |
| 9/3 | Biological Foundations Cognitive Foundations | Skim Ch. 1; Ch. 2; Ch. 3 |
| 9/10 | Cultural Beliefs | Ch. 4 |
| 9/17 | Gender | Ch. 5 (Exam 1 is available after class for an entire week) |
| 9/24 | Exam 1 due today – NO CLASS | Exam 1 (Ch 1 - 4) is due by 11:59 PM |
| 10/1 | The Self | Ch 6 |
| 10/8 | Family Relationships | Ch. 7 |
| 10/15 | FALL BREAK – NO CLASS |  |
| 10/22 | Friends and Peers | Ch. 8 (Exam 2 is available after class for an entire week) |
| 10/29 | Exam 2 Due – No Class | Exam 2 (Ch 5-7) is due by 11:59 PM |
| 11/5 | Love and Sexuality | Ch. 9; Interview Transcript due |
| 11/12 | School; Work | Ch. 10 Ch. 11 |
| 11/19 | Media;  Problems and Resilience | Ch. 12 Ch. 13 (Exam 3 is available after class for an entire week) |
| 11/26 | Exam 3 due – No Class | **Exam 3 (Ch 8-10) is due by 11:59 PM** |
| 12/3 | Presentations Class Discussion | **Presentations** |
| 12/17 | FINAL EXAM – NOT CUMULATIVE | Final Exam (Ch. 11-12) is due by 11:59 PM;  Will be available end of day 12/10 |

**Note: This schedule is tentative and subject to change!**