**Psychology 314-001: Adolescent Development**

**Course Syllabus- Spring 2020**

**Tuesdays 7:20 – 10:00 pm | Krug Hall 05**

**Instructor**: Marissa Davila

**Email**: mdavila5@gmu.edu

**Office**: DK 1020P

**Office** **Hours**: TBD and by appointment

**Required Text**: Steinberg, L. (2019). Adolescence (13th ed). New York: McGraw-Hill.

**Course Description and Goals**

Adolescence is a developmental period characterized by significant changes. This course examines the biological, psychological, and social changes that occur during adolescence. Additionally, this course examine the typical (and atypical) cognitive, behavioral, and emotional outcomes associated with those changes.

Following the completion of this course, student should be able to:

1. Understand the major theories and research findings associated with adolescent development.
2. Apply theory and research to “real-life” situations and issues like parenting, peer groups, and public health.
3. Develop and practice collaboration, writing, and public speaking skills

**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.

**Technology**

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

**Grading**

**Exams** (45% - 3 x 15%)

Goal: For students to be tested on their understanding of the material learned in class

There will be three exams throughout the course. All three exams will be given during the regular course time as outlined in the timeline of the syllabus. 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.

**Research Paper** (30%)

Goal: To gain a deeper understanding of one of the topics covered in class

You are required to write a research paper on a topic of your choice. The topic must relate to adolescent development but should also be something that sparks particular interest from you. This paper should use empirical studies to discuss the topic in depth. All topics must be approved.

You will be graded on your ability to synthesize the research relevant to your topic, clarity of writing, and adherence to APA style guidelines. The paper should be 5-6 pages, double-spaced, times new roman, 12-point font with 1” margins and a page of references (10-12). A detailed rubric will be posted on blackboard and we will discuss the assignment at various points throughout the semester.

**Presentation** (15%)

Goal: To share your topic of interest and main research findings with the class and practice public speaking skills.

You are required to deliver a 2-minute presentation with additional minute or two of questions about the topic that you chose to discuss. This presentation will occur prior to the due date of your final paper and should be used as an opportunity to get feedback from your classmates.

**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**

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| Date | Topic | Assignment (due before class) |
| 1/21 | Syllabus Introduction | N/A |
|  |
| 1/28 | Biological Foundations Cognitive Foundations | Skim Ch. 1; Ch. 2; Ch. 3 |
| 2/4 | Cultural Beliefs | Ch. 4 |
| 2/11 | Gender | Ch. 5 (Exam 1 is available after class for an entire week) |
| 2/18 | Exam 1 due today – NO CLASS | Exam 1 (Ch 1 - 4) is due by 11:59 PM |
| 2/25 | The Self | Ch 6 |
| 3/3 | Family Relationships | Ch. 7 |
| 3/10 | SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS |  |
| 3/17 | Friends and Peers | Ch. 8 (Exam 2 is available after class for an entire week) |
| 3/24 | Exam 2 Due – No Class | Exam 2 (Ch 5-8) is due by 11:59 PM |
| 3/31 | Love and Sexuality | Ch. 9; Paper topic due |
| 4/7 | School; Work | Ch. 10 Ch. 11 |
| 4/14 | Media;  Problems and Resilience | Ch. 12 Ch. 13 (Exam 3 is available after class for an entire week) |
| 4/21 | Exam 3 due – No Class | **Exam 3 (Ch 9-12) is due by 11:59 PM** |
| 4/28 | Presentations Class Discussion | **Presentations** |
| 5/8 | Final Paper due by 11:59 pm |  |

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