

PSYC 314 Adolescent Psychology

Fall 2011

Section 003: TR 9:00-10:15am

University Hall 1202

Instructor: Grace Howarth

Email: ghowarth@masonlive.gmu.edu

Office: David King Hall 1029 (must ring bell at 1021)

Office Phone: 703-993-2241

Office Hours: Mondays 9:30-11:30 or by appointment

Required Text: Arnett, J. J. (2010). *Adolescence and emerging adulthood: A cultural approach* (4th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Course Objectives

This course explores the central concepts, issues, and theories related to the study of adolescent development. Topics will include physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development in adolescence. At times, this course will explore these issues from a multicultural perspective. We will also delve into the problems adolescents face in contemporary culture. As a cumulative project, students will have the opportunity to further examine the issues of adolescence that are of particular interest to them.

Technology

Students are expected to regularly check the course link on Blackboard (found at <https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu/>). This is where important class information including lecture notes, assignment details, and grades will be posted. To access Blackboard, students must use their George Mason email ID and password. Additionally, students should check their GMU email accounts regularly. Please make certain that new messages can be received and your account is not over the message limit.

Course Requirements and Grading

Exams (60%): Three non-cumulative exams will assess the information you have learned from class lectures, readings, and discussions. The exams will be comprised of multiple choice questions. Each exam will be weighted equally and account for 20% of the overall course grade. See the schedule below for exam dates.

Specialized Project (20%): Bullying, teen pregnancy, and juvenile justice are a few of the real issues faced by many of today's adolescents. For the specialized project, pick any topic from the course that interests you, research the topic, and present it in the medium you feel is most appropriate. You may work alone or in groups of up to five students. You have the freedom to be as creative as you like, but all projects *must* be planned ahead of time. Please submit a plan (2-3 pages) to me no later than **Tuesday, October 18**. I will provide my specific expectations for all project plans. Final projects are due **Thursday, December 8**.

Weekly Questions (10%): Active engagement is important to success in this course and students should come to class prepared. Preparation for class includes reading and contemplating relevant text prior to class meetings. Students are required to post a thoughtful

question that may be raised in discussion in response to that week's reading. **Questions are due on Blackboard no later than 7 pm on the dates listed below:**

- Monday, September 5 – Chapter 2 Question
- Wednesday, September 7 – Chapter 3 Question
- Monday, September 19 – Chapter 4 Question
- Monday, September 26 – Chapter 5 Question
- Wednesday, October 5 – Chapter 6 Question
- Monday, October 17 – Chapter 7 Question
- Monday, October 24 – Chapter 8 Question
- Monday, October 31 – Chapter 9 Question
- Wednesday, November 9 – Chapter 10 Question
- Wednesday, November 16 – Chapter 11 Question
- Monday, November 28 – Chapter 12 Question
- Monday, December 5 – Chapter 13 Question

Discussion Leading/Participation (10%): Students are expected to attend as many classes as they are able, ask questions, and participate in discussions. On occasion, an assignment may be given in class and due before the period ends. These assignments cannot be made up. You will be required to sign up (in small groups) to lead one class discussion during the course of the semester. Thus, a portion of this grade will be determined by how well prepared you are in leading discussion on your chosen day. Before you lead, you should touch base with your fellow leaders and develop a plan for the discussion (the list of discussion leaders and their email addresses will be posted on Blackboard after the sign-up day). **A one-page written plan should be emailed to me no later than 4 pm the day before you lead.**

Extra Credit: A maximum of 4 extra credit points may be earned and added to your total course percentage. You may earn extra credit via two different methods:

1. Participating in research studies sponsored by the GMU Psychology Department (<http://gmu.sona-systems.com/>). I will award you 1 point extra credit for each 1 hour that you participate in a research study.
2. Reading and writing a 1½-2 page reflection on a peer-reviewed journal article relating to adolescent development. I have posted some relevant articles on Blackboard and will continue to do so throughout the semester. You may choose any of the articles I post or find articles on your own. Please email me any articles you find on your own for approval. I will award 2 points for each article reviewed.

Please note: You may earn extra credit through any combination of these two methods. Keep in mind that the maximum number of extra credit points you may earn is 4. All extra credit work is due to me no later than the last day of class, **Thursday, December 8.**

Final grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

A+ = 97-100% B+ = 87-89% C+ = 77-79% D = 60-69% F < 60%
 A = 93-96% B = 83-86% C = 73-76%
 A- = 90-92 B- = 80-82% C- = 70-72%

Absences

Students who must miss class for religious observances or university activities must notify me (and provide appropriate documentation) by September 8 in order to be excused on those dates. *Students requesting an excused absence for participation in a university-sponsored activity must provide their instructor with a letter from the university stating the dates and times that participation in the activity would result in the student missing class.* Absences for illness or emergency will also be excused if appropriate documentation is provided. Students who miss an exam for any of the aforementioned reasons are responsible for arranging a make up exam within one week of the originally scheduled exam (except in the case of prolonged illness).

Class Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading/Assignment
T Aug 30	Syllabus	
R Sept 1	Introduction	Chapter 1
T Sept 6	Biological Foundations	Chapter 2
R Sept 8	Cognitive Foundations	Chapter 3
T Sept 13	Cognitive Foundations Discussion	Chapter 3
R Sept 15	No Class – Enjoy!	
T Sept 20	Cultural Beliefs	Chapter 4
R Sept 22	Cultural Beliefs Discussion	Chapter 4
T Sept 27	Gender	Chapter 5
R Sept 29	Gender Discussion	Chapter 5
T Oct 4	EXAM 1	Chapters 1-5
R Oct 6	The Self	Chapter 6
T Oct 11	No class – Monday classes meet	
R Oct 13	The Self Discussion	Chapter 6
T Oct 18	Family Relationships	Chapter 7 Specialized Project Plan due
R Oct 20	Family Relationships Discussion	Chapter 7
T Oct 25	Friends and Peers	Chapter 8
R Oct 27	Friends and Peers Discussion	Chapter 8
T Nov 1	Love and Sexuality	Chapter 9

R Nov 3	Love and Sexuality Discussion	Chapter 9
T Nov 8	EXAM 2	Chapters 6-9
R Nov 10	School	Chapter 10
T Nov 15	School Discussion	Chapter 10
R Nov 17	Work	Chapter 11
T Nov 22	Work Discussion	Chapter 11
W Nov 24	<i>Thanksgiving – No Class</i>	
T Nov 29	Media	Chapter 12
R Dec 1	Media Discussion	Chapter 12
T Dec 6	Problems and Resilience	Chapter 13
R Dec 8	Problems and Resilience Discussion	Chapter 13 Specialized Project due
R Dec 15	EXAM 3 at 7:30-10:15 am	Chapters 10-13

*Any changes to this schedule will be announced in class and updated on Blackboard

George Mason Honor Code

Working with others to discuss course material is encouraged, but all assignments submitted for class and all exam performances must represent your own work. For all work, the person whose name appears on the paper must be the author. Provisions of the GMU Honor Code will be followed in this class and are detailed in your university catalog (<http://mason.gmu.edu/~montecin/plagiarism.htm>). The instructor of this course reserves the right to enter a failing grade to any student found guilty of an honor violation.

Disability Help

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.

Last Day to Add: September 6, 2011

Final Drop Deadline: September 30, 2011