

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

PSYC 314 – Section 003
Adolescent Psychology (3 credits)

Fall Semester 2012
Wednesdays 4:30-7:10 pm
Planetary Hall 120

Katrina Schmerold, Professor

Office hours: Wed. 2:00-3:00 pm, or by appointment
Office location: DK 1021 (located in lower level in David King building)
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Find us on Facebook! <http://Facebook.com/GMUPsychology>

Course Description: Study of the biological and cultural changes accompanying adolescence, including the effect of these changes on emotional, intellectual, and social development (Prerequisites: 6 credits of psychology or permission of instructor).

Objectives: Throughout the course of this semester, students will develop an understanding of the cognitive, biological, psychological and emotional development that occur during adolescence.

Required Text: Steinberg, L. (2011). *Adolescence (9th edition)*. New York: McGraw-Hill.

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 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 Assignments and Examinations:

1. Three Exams and One Final Exam
 - Throughout the course of the semester, there will be a total for four multiple choice exams (including the cumulative final exam).
 - At the end of the semester, the lowest of these four grades will be dropped.
 - If an individual student is satisfied with grades of first three exams, then the final exam will be optional for that student.
 - Note that, in the case of an absence, the exam that is missed will be the exam grade that is dropped.
2. In-Class Short Answers
 - These will be brief questions throughout the class (NOT pop quizzes) that encourage students to think about what is being taught in each lesson.
 - It is extremely important that students attend ALL of each class in order to be present for these brief assignments.

3. Take-Home Reaction Papers

- 2-3 page response papers; Times New Roman, size 12 font
- Encourages students to use critical thinking to apply what is being learned in class to current real world issues
- A hard copy of these papers needs to be turned in at the beginning of the class on the day that it is due (feel free save paper by printing a double sided copy!).
- 3 papers due total

Assignment and Examination Weighting:

- Exams: 69% of final grade (23% per each exam)
- In-Class Short Answer Questions: 20%
- Take-Home Reaction Papers: 11%

GMU Policies and Resources for Students:

- a) Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/honorcode/>].
- b) Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/1301gen.html>].
- c) Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.
- d) The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance [See <http://caps.gmu.edu/>].
- e) Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester [See <http://ods.gmu.edu/>]. If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see instructor and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 709-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.
- f) Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.
- g) The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing [See <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>].

Professional Dispositions: Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times. Cell phones need to be put either on silent or turned off and put away during class times. Laptops should be used for note taking only.

Core Values Commitment:

The College of Education & Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles. <http://cehd.gmu.edu/values>

* ** The instructor for this course reserves the right to enter a failing grade to any student found guilty of an honor code violation. ***

PROPOSED CLASS SCHEDULE:

DATE	TOPIC/LEARNING EXPERIENCES	READING AND ASSIGNMENTS DUE
Aug 29	Introduction; begin Ch. 1	
Sept 5	Ch. 1 & 2 – Biological & Cognitive Transitions	Ch. 1 & 2
Sept 12	Ch. 3 – Social Transitions	Ch. 3; first reaction paper due
Sept 19	EXAM 1 ; begin Ch. 4	Study!
Sept 26	Ch. 4 – Families	Ch. 4
Oct 3	Ch. 5 – Peer groups	Ch. 5; second reaction paper due
Oct 10	Ch. 6 & 7 – Schools & Work and Leisure	Ch. 6 & 7
Oct 17	EXAM 2 ; begin Ch. 8	Study!
Oct 24	NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Recess	☺
Oct 31	Ch. 8 – Identity	Ch. 8
Nov 7	Ch. 9 – Autonomy	Ch. 9
Nov 14	Ch. 10 – Intimacy	Ch. 10; third reaction paper due
Nov 24	Ch. 13 – Psychosocial Problems	Ch. 13
Nov 28	EXAM 3 ; class activity	Study!
Dec 5	Class Synthesis; Final Preparation	Study and prepare any questions!
Dec 12	FINAL EXAM	Study!

* Last day to add a new course: September 4, 2012

** Last day to drop a course: September 28, 2012