

**Adolescent Development
Psych 133A**

Fall, 2009

Tuesday/Thursday, 11:00-12:15
WGYoung CS76

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Course Overview

This course is designed to provide students with an overview of children's development during the second decade of life. Students will gain an understanding of the psychological, biological, and sociological issues surrounding the period that encompasses the transition from childhood to adulthood. Students will also develop the ability to read and critically evaluate primary research on adolescent development.

Each week will be focused on a general topic in adolescent development. Tuesday's class will consist of lecture that covers the basis issues associated with the week's topic. Thursday's class will be a combination of lecture, discussion, and activities that address a more specific question regarding the week's topic. Students will be responsible for material covered in both parts of class.

Course Materials

Text: Steinberg, L. (2008). *Adolescence, 8th Ed.* New York: McGraw Hill.
Available at the college bookstore and on reserve at the College Library

Readings: Readings available on the course website.

Requirements

Exams (75%)

Two exams will be given. Each exam will encompass only one-half of the course and will cover material from the classes, text, and readings. One exam will be worth 35% and the other will be worth 40% of the final grade; the exam with the higher score will be worth 40%. Exam I will take place in class on October 29. Exam II will take place during finals week on December 10, 3:00-4:15.

Journal Reviews (25%)

Students will complete two 2-3 paged reviews of empirical articles that describe research on adolescents. The first review will be worth 10% and the second will be worth 15% of the final grade.

Course Schedule

September 24 The Social Construction of Adolescence

Text: Introduction, Chapter 3

September 29 *Focus: The Changing Views of Adolescence as a Developmental Period*

Hall, G. S. (1904). *Adolescence; its psychology and its relations to physiology, anthropology, sociology, sexuality, crime, religion and education*. New York: D. Appleton & Co., pp. ix-xv

Freud, A. (1969). Adolescence as a developmental disturbance. In G. Caplan and S. Ledovici (Eds.), *Adolescence: Psychosocial perspectives*. (pp 5-10), Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Arnett, J. J. (1999). Adolescent storm and stress, reconsidered. *American Psychologist*, 54, 317-326.

October 1 Biological Changes and Puberty

Text: Chapter 1

October 6 *NO CLASS*

October 8 *Focus: Brain Maturation during Adolescence*

Text: Chapter 2, pp. 73-78.

Giedd, J. N., Blumenthal, J., Jeffries, N. O., Castellanos, F. X., Liu, H., Zijdenbos, A., Paus, T., Evans, A. C., & Rapoport, J. L. (1999). Brain development during childhood and adolescence: A longitudinal MRI study. *Nature Neuroscience*, 2, pp. 861-863.

Nelson, E. E., Leibenluft, E., McClure, E., & Pine, D. S. (2005). The social re-orientation of adolescence: A neuroscience perspective on the process and its relation to psychopathology. *Psychological Medicine*, 35, 163-174.

October 13 Family Relationships

Text: Chapters 4 and 9

October 15 *Focus: Authoritative Parenting and Adolescent Development*

Steinberg, L., Mounts, N., Lamborn, S., & Dornbusch, S. (1991). Authoritative parenting and adolescent adjustment across varied ecological niches. *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, 1, 19-36.

FIRST JOURNAL REVIEW DUE

October 20 Peer Relationships

Text: Chapters 5 and 10

October 22 *Focus: The Impact of Peers on Adolescent Risk Taking*

Gardner, M., & Steinberg, L. (2005). Peer influence on risk taking, risk preference, and risky decision making in adolescence and adulthood: An experimental study. *Developmental Psychology*, 41, 625-635.

October 27 Identity Formation and Self Concept
Focus: The Development of Ethnic Identity

Text: Chapter 8

October 29

**** EXAMI ****

November 3 Schools and Achievement

Text: Chapters 6 and 12

November 5 *Focus: The Transition from Elementary to Secondary School*

Eccles, J. S., Midgely, C., Wigfield, A., & Buchanan, C., Reuman, D., Flanagan, C., & Mac Iver, D. (1993). Development during adolescence: The impact of stage-environment fit on young adolescents' experiences in school and in families. *American Psychologist*, 48, 90-101.

November 10 Psychopathology and Problem Behavior

Text: Chapter 13

November 12 *Focus: Adolescent Substance Use*

Schedler, J. & Block, J. (1990). Adolescent drug use and psychological health: A longitudinal inquiry. *American Psychologist*, 45, 612-630.
SECOND JOURNAL REVIEW DUE

November 17 Employment and Activity Involvement

Text: Chapter 7

November 19 *Focus: Adolescent Internet Use*

Ybarra, M. L., & Mitchell, K. J. (2004). Online aggressor/targets, aggressors, and targets: A comparison of associated youth characteristics. *Journal of Child Psychology & Psychiatry*, 45, 1308-1316.

Sanders, C. E., Field, T. M., Diego, M., & Kaplan, M. (2000). The relationship of internet use to depression and social isolation among adolescents. *Adolescence*, 35, 237-242.

November 24 Sexuality

Text: Chapter 11

Focus: Adolescent Pregnancy

Kirby, D. (2001). *Emerging answers: Research findings on programs to reduce teen pregnancy*. Washington, DC: National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. pp. i- vi, pp. 1-20.

November 26

NO CLASS

December 1

The Transition to Adulthood

Arnett, J. J. (2000). Emerging adulthood: A theory of development from the late teens through the twenties. *American Psychologist*, 55, 469-480.

December 3

Focus: The Declining Fortunes of Non-College Youth

Halperin, S. (1998). Today's forgotten half. In S. Halperin (Ed.), *The forgotten half revisited: American youth and young families, 1988-2008*. Washington, DC: American Youth Policy Forum, Inc.

Hamilton, S. F., & Hurrelmann, K. (1994). The school-to-career transition in German and the United States. *Teachers College Record*, 96, 329-344.

December 10, 3:00-4:15

**** EXAM II ****
