

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS DARTMOUTH
Department of Psychology
Summer 2006

PSY 215 Adolescent Psychology

Instructor Information:

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Required Texts:

Steinberg, L. (2005). *Adolescence* (7th ed.). Boston: McGraw-Hill.

Stickler, F.E. (2005). *Annual Editions: Adolescent Psychology*. 2006/2007 (5th edition). Boston: McGraw Hill.

Other selected readings and handouts may be assigned by instructor.

Course Description and Rationale:

This course will examine the developmental period of adolescence, the time from puberty to early adulthood. We will examine the physical, cognitive, and socioemotional development of adolescence in the context of family, relationships, and culture. The course will survey major topics such as individual development, the context of adolescent development, and transitional challenges during adolescence.

Course Objectives:

At the end of the semester, students should be able to:

1. Gain an understanding of the historical development of adolescence.
2. Examine the physical development of adolescence and how it affects the individual.
3. Discuss adolescent cognitive changes and intellectual development.
4. Understand the nature of social interactions during the adolescent years.
5. Gain familiarity with contemporary research on adolescent development and social relationships.

Course Format:

This course will utilize a variety of teaching methods--primarily lectures, reading assignments, videos, and class discussion. Class participation (questions, comments, discussion) is an integral part of this course and is encouraged and expected.

Course Requirements:

2 Exams (50 points each)	100 points
Interview Project	25 points
Annual Editions Presentation	25 points
Class participation, attendance, and daily work	<u>25 points</u>
	175 points total

EXAMINATIONS:

There will be two *non-cumulative* examinations in this class. All lecture materials, required readings, class experiences, handouts, and videos will be considered fair game for test material. Not all reading material will be covered in lecture; not all lecture material will be in the readings. Thus, it is important to attend all lectures and to do all the required readings. The exams will follow a multiple-choice and short answer format.

INTERVIEW PROJECT:

For this assignment, you will interview someone about their adolescent experiences and write up the results in a **2-3 page typed paper**. Your “interviewee” must be someone whose **social context of adolescence was different from your own**. For example, they must be from a different generation (older or younger) or perhaps a different cultural group than you. Specific criteria for this assignment will be distributed on a separate sheet.

ANNUAL EDITIONS PRESENTATION:

The second assignment involves the readings from the Annual Editions textbook. You may choose to either work alone or in pairs to prepare an in-class presentation of one of the chapters in the book. The presentations will take place on **Wednesday 6/21** and will be peer-reviewed. Specific criteria for this assignment will also be distributed on a separate sheet.

IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES:

There will be periodic in-class activities to help you understand the material. These activities are designed to be “hands-on” learning experiences; therefore, you **MUST** be present to take part in these activities and earn points—there will be **NO MAKE-UP** opportunities.

Grading:

There are 175 points available. Final grades will be based on the total number of points accumulated during the semester, using the following percentage scale:

s 93-100 = A	s 90-92 = A-	
s 87-89 = B+	s 83-86 = B	s 80-82 = B-
s 77-79 = C+	s 73-76 = C	s 70-72 = C-
s 67-69 = D+	s 63-66 = D	s 60-62 = D-
s Below 60 = F		

Class Rules:

1. Complete all assigned readings prior to class meeting.
2. Students are expected to attend class every day. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to get the notes and handouts from a classmate.
3. University policies regarding academic dishonesty, as described in the Undergraduate Catalogue, will be enforced in this class. Cheating on an examination or using another author's work as your own will, at minimum, earn you a score of 'zero' and may result in failure of the class. Any incidents of cheating will be reported to the Vice President of Academic Affairs.
4. Students are expected to take examinations at the scheduled times. Exams may be made up only in the case of a University excused absence. Decisions whether to allow a make-up exam will be determined by the instructor.

Calendar:

The following outline is a *tentative schedule* of the topics that will be covered during each class meeting.

DATE	TOPIC
Tu – May 30	Introduction to class
W – May 31	Chapter 1 – Biological Transitions
M – June 5	NO CLASS: work on Interview Project
Tu – June 6	Chapter 2 – Cognitive Transitions
W – June 7	Chapter 3 – Social Transitions **INTERVIEW PROJECT DUE**
M – June 12	Chapters 4 – Families
Tu – June 13	Chapter 5 – Peer Groups
W – June 14	EXAM I (Chapters 1-5)
M – June 19	Chapter 8 – Identity
Tu – June 20	Chapter 9 – Autonomy
W – June 21	**IN-CLASS PRESENTATIONS**
M – June 26	Chapter 11 – Sexuality
Tu – June 27	Chapter 13 – Psychosocial Problems in Adolescence
W – June 28	EXAM II (Chapters 8, 9, 11, 13)