

PSY 4381/5381 Adolescent Psychology Spring 2010

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Office: Academic Building 204A
Office Hours: M & W 12 - 1 pm
2 - 3 pm
T & R 1 - 3 pm
F 10 - 12 pm

Course Description: This course is an in-depth examination of the psychology of adolescence. We will examine physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development during adolescence. We will also examine the contexts of adolescence including the family, peer group, school, and work.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, you should:

- Understand major theories of adolescent development.
- Be able to think critically about adolescent development.
- Understand the differences between the cultural perception of adolescence and the reality of adolescence.

Required Readings:

Textbook: Adolescence. (8th ed.) By Laurence Steinberg.
ISBN: 978-0-07-340548-3; 0-07-340548-5

Additional readings will be distributed in class or online.

Course Requirements:

Exams: There will be four non-cumulative exams. Items on exams may be multiple choice, short answer, essay, or any combination of those forms. Exams will include information from handouts, discussions, lectures, homework assignments, and class activities.

Classroom Debate: Over the course of semester there will be five debates on current issues that are related to child psychology. Each debate will have pro and con side that will consist of five students. Each student will write a short response (3-6 pages, double-spaced) explaining their side of the issue using the textbook, research articles, and other instructor approved sources. Students are encouraged to meet with the other students in their group to discuss ideas and strategies. In class, both groups will present their side and then the groups will formally debate each other.

Adolescence in the Media Paper: Students will complete a paper that examines a form of media (film, television, music, literature) that focuses on adolescence. The paper will focus on three areas and whether these areas are accurate portrayals of adolescence. The instructor must approve the media. More details are on the paper rubric.

Discussion Responses: Discussion responses are designed to make sure that you have read the assigned material before coming to class. On Blackboard, there will be a discussion board for each chapter. I will post questions and you will be able to respond to my questions and any other comments. Discussion responses will receive zero to five points each. Points will be based on the originality, depth, and relevance to theory and practice of the responses. Students must complete up to 50 points to receive full credit. Students are still welcome to post questions after they receive 50 points, but they will not count towards the student's grade. **IMPORTANT:** To qualify for points, responses must be posted by 8am the day the chapter will be discussed so the instructor will have time to read them. For

example if we are going to start Chapter 4 on Thursday, all responses for Chapter 4 must be posted by 8am on Thursday. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS. Responses posted after 8am will not be graded. Keep in mind the syllabus schedule is tentative. If we have already covered a topic in class and you try to post responses to it, they will not be graded. Students are strongly advised to not wait until the end of the semester to try to get all their points.

Extra Credit: Students may choose to complete up to two research studies for extra credit in this course. Each study is worth 5 points (10 points total). These studies must be assigned to this class. Research credits assigned to other classes will not be accepted. You must register for these activities through the following website: <http://angelostate.sona-systems.com/>.

Attendance/Engagement/Make-Up Policy: Attendance is required for this course. You will not be able to succeed in this class without attendance. No make-ups (exams, in class activities, and discussion questions) will be allowed without prior approval from the instructor. The instructor will determine if a student will be allowed to make-up the assignment. If the instructor allows the student to turn in make-up work, it is due the last day of class. Professional behavior during class is expected, which includes (a) participating in class discussions and group activities, as well as listening attentively when fellow students are contributing to class discussion, (b) reading the assigned material prior to each class and coming to class with questions to clarify any ideas in the readings that are unclear and (c) arriving to class on time and not leaving early. **No electronic devices (cell phone, pda, etc.) should be used during class without instructor permission.**

Grades: The points listed are an approximate estimate. There may be more or less points depending on how much material is covered in class.

4 Exams (50 points each)	200 points
Debate	50 points
Adolescence in the Media paper	50 points
Discussion Questions	50 points

Total Points	350 points
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Graduate students only:

Research paper or proposal	100 points
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Grading Scale

A = (90%-100%)

B = (80%-89%)

C = (70%-79%)

D = (60%-69%)

E = (below 60%)

Grading Policies: To be fair to all students in this class, all assignments are due on time at the beginning of class. Late work will not be accepted without prior approval from the instructor. No exams will be given early. Make-up exams will only be given in case of emergency IF a student notifies me BEFORE the exam is given and provides appropriate supporting documentation for the absence. Otherwise, the student will receive a zero for the missed exam. **Cell phones must be turned off and out of sight during exams. Pulling out your cell phone during an exam may result in a zero for the exam. If leaving the room for any reason during an exam, please inform the instructor first.**

Honor Code: Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is available on the web at <http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/honorcode5.pdf>.

Supplemental Instruction: Information about becoming a more effective and efficient learner is available through the Dept. of Psychology & Sociology website at www.angelo.edu/dept/psychology_sociology/index.htm.

Writing Center: The ASU Writing Center (942-2093) is located on the 3rd floor of the ASU Library in 305C. Writing Center tutors can work with students in any discipline and at any skill level.

Disabilities: Persons with disabilities that warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center (942-2193), in order to request such accommodations prior to their being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Please note: This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

Date	Topics	Homework Due
Jan 19	Intro	
Jan 21	Intro Chapter	
Jan 26	Chapter 1	
Jan 28	Chapter 1	
Feb 2	Chapter 2	
Feb 4	Chapter 2	Debate 1
Feb 9	Wrap up/Review	
Feb 11	Exam 1	
Feb 16	Chapter 3	
Feb 18	Chapter 3	
Feb 23	Chapter 8	
Feb 25	Chapter 8	Debate 2
Mar 2	Chapter 9	
Mar 4	Chapter 9	
Mar 9	Wrap-up/Review	
Mar 11	Exam 2	
Mar 16	Spring Break	
Mar 18	Spring Break	
Mar 23	Chapter 10	
Mar 25	Chapter 10	
Mar 30	Chapter 11	
Apr 1	Chapter 11	Debate 3
Apr 6	Chapter 12	
Apr 8	Chapter 12	Debate 4
Apr 13	Wrap-Up/Review	
Apr 15	Exam 3	
Apr 20	Chapter 13	
Apr 22	Chapter 13	
Apr 27	Chapter 4	Debate 5
Apr 29	Chapter 5	
May 4	Chapter 6	
May 6	Chapter 7	
May 11	Final Exam 10:30am	