

St. Jerome's in the University of Waterloo
Department of Psychology
Psychology 315 – Fall 2004
Adolescence

Course Outline

Instructor: Dr. M. Drysdale
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Office Hours: T& TH 10:30 – 11:30 or by appointment ONLY
Lectures: Tuesday 6:00 – 9:00pm, STJ 2017
Teaching Assistant: Nadia Palarchio, nipalarchio@hotmail.com STJ 2021

Course Overview:

The period of adolescents is characterized as a complex interaction between the individual and his/her environment. This course introduces students to the nature of this interaction as well as the various aspects of adolescent development. Topics to be covered include: the biological, cognitive, and social changes that take place during the adolescent period; adolescence in different contexts; psychosocial development; and difficulties of adolescence. The way adolescents are portrayed in the media and the messages they get from the media will also be emphasized.

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this course, students will have an understanding of:

- the process and importance of theoretical foundations in the investigation of adolescent development
- the process of physical development during adolescence
- the current emphasis within our culture emphasizing image and physical appearance
- the process of cognitive development according to Jean Piaget
- social learning theory and the development of self-concept and self-esteem
- the processes and problems of developing a strong identity
- the role of family, and peer relationships adolescent development
- challenges and problems faced by adolescents
- the influence and effects of the media on adolescent development
- professional and scholarly writing in the field of psychology

Required Text:

Lerner, R. M., Brown, J. D., & Kier, C. (2005). *Adolescence: Development, Diversity, Context, and Application*. Canadian Edition. Toronto: Pearson Prentice Hall.

Required Reading Material:

Required readings are on reserve in the St. Jerome's library. Ask for the 'psychology 315 readings'. Students are responsible for making copies.

NOTE: As an upper level psychology course, students are expected to evaluate critically the literature on the topics presented. It is important to keep up with the readings so you are prepared for the classroom discussions. If students are not prepared then I will simply cancel the discussion, HOWEVER, students will still be responsible for the material as it will be included on the exams. There are written components for this course. Students are expected to write in a scholarly fashion at a university level.

Correspondence:

Students using email or the telephone to contact the T.A or me **must** include their first and last names, student number, and course in which they are enrolled. Please address me as Dr. Drysdale.

Please allow at least 24 hours for a response made between Monday and Thursday and allow the weekend for a response to an inquiry made on Friday, Saturday or Sunday.

For course related questions, request for extra help with the content, or to go over one of your exams, please contact the TA (Nadia).

For all other inquiries or questions, please contact me (Dr. Drysdale) (e.g., missing an exam).

Please do not ask if you can borrow my notes if you miss class.

Do not email or telephone asking for grades. For security reasons, grades are not released over the telephone or Internet

If my door is open feel free to approach. Please knock first. If the door is closed, I am away or busy. Please respect my "Do Not Disturb" sign or "Session in Progress" sign.

Evaluation:

Exam 1:	30%	October 12
Exam 2:	30%	November 9
Final Exam:	40%	Take-Home due Thursday December 9, 4:00pm

NOTE: EXAM DATES and DUE DATES ARE FINAL: PLEASE DO NOT REQUEST ANY ALTERNATE DATES/TIMES (medical exceptions excluded, see below).

Exams 1 and 2:

- Exams 1 and 2 will NOT be cumulative and will cover the lecture material, video material, textbook material and all additional readings. Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures as well as the assigned chapters in the text and required readings. Some of the textbook may be assigned as “Independent Study” meaning that students will be expected to read chapter sections that are not discussed in class.
- Exams 1 and 2 will consist of multiple-choice and short-answer questions.
- Requests for changing the weighting of tests will not be considered.
- **CHEATING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED**; students are referred to the university policy on scholastic offences. Looking at the test of another student, allowing another student to view your exam, or obtaining information about a test in advance are all examples of cheating. Students found cheating will receive a zero (0%) on that exam. A number of safeguards will be employed to discourage cheating. For example, invigilators of the tests will ask students to move to another seat during the exam, cover their paper, avert their eyes from other students’ papers, remove baseball caps, etc. This is not meant as a personal affront or as an accusation of cheating, rather as vigilant attempts at proctoring. It is strongly recommended that you **do not** sit with friends during the examinations.
- All incidences of cheating will be reported to the Department Chair and the Associate Dean. The Associate Dean will then record the offence in the students record. In addition, the professor will recommend that the student be required to withdraw from the university.

Final Take-Home Exam

- The final exam **will be cumulative** and will consist of short-essay questions.
- This is an individual assignment. Please refer to the policy on “Avoidance of Academic Offenses” in this course outline.
- Throughout the term, students will watch four feature films targeted at adolescents and having adolescents in the lead role(s). The content in these films will be the basis for the final exam.
- Questions will cover the following:
 - How adolescents are portrayed in the films.
 - The messages/values expressed to adolescents with respect to:
 - Sex
 - Violence
 - Drugs
 - School
 - Parents
 - Friends and peers
 - Physical appearance/Body image
 - Merchandise
 - Linking the content to the following course material:
 - Physical changes
 - Emotional changes
 - Cognitive advances
 - Peer pressure
 - Identity formation (including gender identity and sexuality)
 - Rebellion
 - Changing relationships
- APA format is mandatory.
 - References and proper citations should be used when linking media content to course material
 - Writing style is important. APA format, spelling, grammar, punctuation and professional appearance count.
- **Late exams will NOT BE ACCEPTED.** Treat this due date as you would a scheduled final exam.

POLICY REGARDING ILLNESS OR ACCOMMODATION

- Students are entitled to a rescheduling of exams or an extension of deadlines for legitimate medical or compassionate reasons. Students are also entitled to rescheduling of exams based on religious grounds. However, **it is the student's responsibility** to inform the instructor **prior** to the due date, to arrange a timely makeup, and to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical, compassionate, or religious claim (Page 1:8-9 in the University of Waterloo Calendar).
- Please note that NO exams or assignments are scheduled on important faith dates.
- If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, you should contact your instructor and the Academic Counselling Office as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for grade revisions on medical or compassionate grounds will not be considered (Page 1:8-9 in the University of Waterloo Calendar. If a student completes an exam while ill, the grade stands).

PROFESSOR'S REQUIREMENTS REGARDING ILLNESS

- Only on the documented basis of illness or other extreme circumstance will students be permitted to write a make-up test. In the case of illness, a student **must** contact the instructor in the Psychology Department **prior to** the test (the voice mail stamps the date and time of telephone calls). The student must provide an **official illness certificate** on appropriate letterhead from their physician, which states that, due to medical reasons, it was **impossible** for the student to write the exam at the scheduled time (i.e., severe illness). **A NOTE SCRIBBLED ON A PRESCRIPTION PAD IS NOT AN ACCEPTABLE MEDICAL CERTIFICATE** (see page 1:8-9 of the University of Waterloo Calendar regarding the standard practices with respect to illness).
- If you are sick and you contact me after the exam, you will not be permitted to write the test. You will receive a 'zero' on that test. Exception to this: if you are involved in an accident on your way to the exam (documentation required) and as a result you are not able to call me. If you are extremely incapacitated, in hospital or have had an unexpected death in the family within 24 hours of the test, then have a friend or family member call ASAP.
- Any student missing an exam with a valid reason must write a make-up exam. The make-up exam may differ in format from the original exam (e.g., an entire essay exam). Eliminating an exam from the course requirements and redistributing grades is not an option.
- Please note that the following are **NOT** valid reasons for rescheduling an exam or getting an extension on the article critique:
 - Travel plans (athletic or personal)
 - Missing your bus or ride to campus
 - Work overload. You can have as many as 5 exams in a single day during the regular term and be expected to write all of them. All exams in this course are during the regular term. Therefore I will not reschedule because of other exams or assignments on the same day.
 - Sleeping-in or alarm clock problems.
 - Forgetting you had an exam or forgetting you were registered in the course.

RELEASE OF GRADES:

When tests are graded, the results will be posted on the Psychology bulletin board between offices 2016 and 2018. Grades are not released over email or telephone. Do not send email to the Instructor or Teaching Aide regarding "when will the grades be posted?" We endeavour to complete the grading as quickly as possible. Exam three and final grades will not be posted prior to the end of the examination period (i.e., 7pm Dec. 19th).

AVOIDANCE OF ACADEMIC OFFENSES

A note on avoidance of academic offenses: All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts and its colleges are expected to know what constitutes an academic offense, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for their academic actions. When the commission of an offense is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline) which is supplied in the university of Waterloo Undergraduate Calendar (p. 1:10; on the web at http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infoucal/UW/policy_71.html) and St. Jerome's University Calendar (p. 16 - 17). If you believe you have been wrongfully or unjustly penalized, you may grieve this decision in accord with Policy #70, (Student Grievance, p. 17 - 18, SJU Calendar). If you need help in learning how to avoid offenses such as plagiarism, cheating and double submission, or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor; the appropriate St. Jerome's departmental chair and ultimately the Appeals Officer (currently the Associate Dean) for St. Jerome's University. Further information on "*How to Avoid Plagiarism and Other Written Offences: A Guide for Students and Instructors*" can be found at <http://watarts.uwaterloo.ca/~sager/plagiarism.html>.

PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS*

In the first instance, all appeals of a grade must be made to the course instructor (informal consultation). If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal must be made to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied, the written appeal should then be sent to the Departmental Chair or appropriate authority. If the formal response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, he/she may then initiate a hearing before a tribunal established at the Faculty or University level (see Policy 70, Academic Grievances, Type 1 in the St. Jerome's University Calendar). More information regarding appeals can be obtained by contacting the St. Jerome's Student Appeals Officer or the Ombudsperson's Office (Student Life Centre, Room 2128, 885-1211 x2402). The full text of **Policy 70** is available on the Web as well as from the Secretariat (Needles Hall, Room 3060).

<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.pdf>

OTHER INFORMATION

- Student ID Cards are necessary for examinations. Please place them on the corner of your desk.
- Absolutely no cellular telephones, headphones, or other electronic devices are permitted on your desk during examinations. Baseball caps should not be worn during examinations. If you must wear one, the cap must be worn backward so that your eyes are visible to proctors.
- Backpacks must be stored beneath your desk or at the front of the classroom during examinations. Purses and other personal items must also be stored beneath the desk.
- Do ***NOT*** sit with friends during examinations.
- Students who are dissatisfied with their academic achievement are *strongly* encouraged to seek advice from a study skills counsellor at Needles Hall (**888-4567, Ext. 2655**), the teaching assistant, or the professor *prior* to their next exam(s).
- If you bring coffee & other drinks and/or muffins & other food into the classroom, please take your empty cups, tins, wrappers, crumbs, etc. with you and dispose of them in the wastebasket.
- Please do not email the professor or the TA requesting information on required readings/chapters for exams. Please refer to your outline.
- Please turn off your cell phones during class. If your phone rings, you will be asked to leave class.

*Portions of these sections were taken from the following sources: Academic Calendars of St. Jerome's University, the University of Waterloo, the University of Western Ontario and the University of Calgary.

Lecture & Exam Schedule and Required Readings

Date	Topic	Required Reading (Textbook)	Required Reading (Available on reserve in the STJ library)
September 14	Introduction	Chapter 1	
September 21	History and Theories of Adolescence Video: 1. Breakfast Club	Chapters 1 & 2	
September 28	Physical Development Videos: 1. Slim Hopes 2. Body Image for Boys	Chapter 3	1. Effects of the Timing of Puberty
October 5	Cognitive Development	Chapter 4	1. The Maximum Security Adolescent 2. Less Guilty by Reason of Adolescence
October 12	Exam 1 (30%)		
October 19	Identity & Sense of Self	Chapters 6	1. Adolescence, Identity, and the Bernardone Family 2. The Complexity of the Self in Adolescence
October 26	Families and Peers Video: 1. Mean Girls	Chapters 8 & 9	
November 2	Sexuality Video: 1. What a Girl Wants (not the feature film) 2. Kids	Chapter 10	
November 9	Exam 2 (30%)		
November 16	Media and Entertainment Video: 1. Tough Guise	Chapter 12	1. Violence Exposure in real-life, Video Games, Television, Movies, and the Internet: Is there Desensitization?
November 23	Problem Behaviours Video: 1. I Wanna be Adored 2. Teen Suicide	Chapter 13	
November 30	Conclusion Video: 1. TBA		
December 9	Take-Home Final Exam Due, 4:00pm		