

Syllabus Adolescent Development

333 section 01 – Fall 2011

Version 09-01-2011

Who

Instructor: Estelle Mayhew
Instructor email: emayhew@rci.rutgers.edu
TA : Kris Mescher
TA email: kmescher@eden.rutgers.edu

When/where

Location: Hill Center 114
Time: Mondays & Thursdays 12:00 – 1:20
Office hours instructor: Thursdays, 2:00 - 3:15 pm
Office location instructor: Room 229, Tillett Hall Livingston Campus
Office hours TA: tba
Office location TA: tba

- The TA is in charge of copying and grading the exams.
- The TA will have the physical exams.
- If you wish to see your exam (and this is a very good idea) then you must visit the TA during her office hours.

Note on email

- If you ask a question for which the answer is in the syllabus or in the announcements on Sakai, I will in all likelihood NOT reply to your email. So check those places BEFORE you shoot me an email.
- If it's a minor issue, ask me before/after class.
- On other issues, I will try to get back to you within 3 days. Any emails sent within 12 hours of the class may not get read before class period, keep it in mind.
- Also, please remember to SIGN (that means first and last name) your emails. I don't know, nor will I expend any effort to find out who strawberry@dotmail is. You also need to indicate in EVERY email WHICH CLASS and you are in, as I have 650+ students in several different classes. *If you forget to indicate your name, or your class I am unlikely to reply to your email.*

What

The goal of this course is to examine adolescent development. We will look at the basic changes that take place in adolescence (physiological changes, changes in thinking, changes in social interactions), the context within which these changes take place (adolescents in family, peer, school, work and community environments), and the psychosocial areas in which development

takes place (achievement, autonomy, identity, intimacy), we will briefly look at psychosocial problems in adolescence. We will also look at how the research is done in this developmental field.

Required Readings

Available at the Livingston bookstore

(1)

McMahan, Ian. (2008) *Adolescence*. 1st edition.

I realize this book is expensive, as all college textbooks are. I honestly don't care if you rent it, or get a second hand copy, the loose-leaf version, some international edition that officially isn't supposed to be sold in the U.S., or whatever. I do care that you get the book, or to put it differently: PLEASE get the book.

The bookstore has it packaged with the second requirement (virtual teen), and I think that the combination is probably a reasonable deal, but I leave it to your judgment.

There will be a number of copies of the book on reserve in the Kilmer library.

(2)

- You must get the student access number for VIRTUAL TEEN. It is available packaged with the book at the bookstore, OR you can buy standalone access if you don't want the package deal.
- The ISBN for STANDALONE ACCESS (i.e. without the book) is ISBN 0205800823.
- You will be raising a virtual child through the age of 18. Raising your child requires 7-10 hours over the course of the semester. The assignments relating to virtual teen will amount to 10% of your grade.
- Late assignments are NOT accepted. Plan accordingly.
- The Virtual Teen assignments are graded by the TA and professor.
- Raising your child in one go during the first few days of the semester is not advisable.
- There is a tab on Sakai with information pertaining to Virtual teen. PLEASE read through this before you register/raise your child or complete assignments.

Class Website

- The class has a Sakai website which you should have access to if you are enrolled in the course. This will be the most important way in which you get information outside of class.
- The *class slides* (which are only an outline of the material covered) will be posted on Sakai. Posting may take place before or after the class, I know you want them before but that is not always possible. Please don't send me emails suggesting how much better it would be if the powerpoints were posted beforehand, I am not all that big a fan of posting the slides in the first place.
- *Virtual Teen information* is available on Sakai, under the virtual teen tab of the left.

- The *Virtual Teen assignments* will be posted on Sakai under the Tests and Quizzes tab on the left.
- *Announcements* will also be posted here if there are changes to the schedule (please no more floods!).
- I will occasionally post *polls* (under the polls tab) and I will send out announcements if I'd like you take the polls.
- I will post *review questions* for the exam on Sakai. Review questions will cover the topics in the book or the lecture. Exam questions CAN come from stuff only covered in lecture OR stuff only covered in the book.

Tentative Class Schedule

Week	Dates	Topic	Readings	VT assignments
1	Th. Sept. 1	Course Rules	Get the book	Get VT – link to class
2	Th. Sept. 8	What is adolescence?	Chapter 1	
3	Mon. Sept. 12	Theories & Research	Chapter 2	
	Th. Sept. 15	Biology of puberty	Chapter 3	
4	Mon. Sept. 19	Biological issues		
	Th. Sept. 22	Changes in cognition	Chapter 4	
5	Mon. Sept. 26	Consequences of cogn. Changes		
	Th. Sept. 29	Family relationships	Chapter 5	VT 1 due
6	Mon. Oct. 3	Changing families		
	Th. Oct. 6	Peer groups	Chapter 6	
7	Mon. Oct. 10	EXAM 1	Chs. 1-5	
	Th. Oct. 13	Popularity & Rejection		
8	Mon. Oct. 17	Structure of education	Chapter 7	VT 2 due
	Th. Oct. 20	School climate		
9	Mon. Oct. 24	Work and Careers	Chapter 9 (career)	
	Th. Oct. 27	Culture & community		
10	Mo. Oct. 31	Leisure and media	Chapter 8	VT 3 due
	Th. Nov. 3	Development of achievement	Chapter 9	
11	Mo, Nov. 7	EXAM 2	Chs. 6 – 9	
	Th. Nov. 10	Self-conception & self-esteem	Chapter 11	
11	Mo, Nov. 14	Identity/Gender	Chapter 10	VT 4 due
	Th, Nov. 17	Gender/Moral reasoning		
12	TUE, Nov. 22	Development of intimacy	Chapter 12	
13	Mon, Nov. 28	Romance/sexuality		
	Th. Dec. 1	Externalizing problems	Chapter 13	
14	Mo. Dec. 5	Internalizing problems		
	Th. Dec. 8	Stress, coping	Chapter 14	
15	Mo. Dec. 12	Positive development		VT 5 due
	Study			
16	TUE. Dec. 22	FINAL EXAM 12-1:30 pm	Chs. 10-14	Normal classroom

				unless otherwise announced
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What makes the grade?

(1) Exams

- There will be three non-cumulative exams. Two exams during the semester and a final exam. Material covered in each exam is indicated below. The two exams during the semester will be held in our normal location. The final exam will be held in our normal location, unless you get email/Sakai notification to the contrary.
- There will be non-cumulative make-up exams ONLY for those who present a doctor's note or a Dean's note within a week of the missed exam to the instructor.

Exam 1: Mon. Oct. 10	covers Introduction & Chapters 1 – 5	30% of grade
Exam 2: Mon. Nov. 7	covers Chapters 6 – 9	30% of grade
Final exam: Tue. Dec. 22	covers Chapters 10 – 14	30% of grade

- *If* you have a conflict for the final exam, which is defined as follows by SAS:
 - More than two (2) final exams on one calendar day
 - More than two (2) final exams scheduled in consecutive periods (ex: A student has exams scheduled for 4:00-7:00 pm and 8:00-11:00 pm on one day and 8:00-11:00 am on the following day.)
 - Two final exams scheduled for the same exam period.
- *Then* you are allowed to ask for a makeup on the basis of conflict.
- In order to obtain it, you need to go to <http://finalexams.rutgers.edu> and log in (it's at the top of the page). Print out your final exam schedule and only then come to me. You should actually be able to do this on the first day that your schedule is finalized. The day before the exam conflict is TOO LATE to come asking for a makeup!
- Exam characteristics:
 - 60 Multiple choice questions
 - Covers lecture and book
 - Not the easiest, you must study.

(2) Assignments

- The remaining 10% of your grade will be assignments related to Virtual Teen. They will be on Sakai and listed under Tests and quizzes. The deadlines are listed in the class schedule. I will post Sakai announcements when they go up.
- These assignments are your own work, and may not be completed together with other people.
- Your virtual teen needs to be linked to our class, and I may well peek at how your child progresses. There are no “correct” and “incorrect” ways to raise your child, but I do expect you to think carefully about your decisions, the way you would if you raised a real child. Your replies in the assignments are supposed to show that you reflected on your decisions and on your child's character and strengths and weaknesses.

Grading Scale for letter grades end semester

- I do not change grades except in cases of computational error. Please do not email me about how close you are to the next highest grade. 20% of you will always be near the next highest grade, and all of you 'need' higher grades. If you think errors were made in computation, feel free to email me.

A	90% or higher
B+	85% - 89%
B	80% - 84%
C+	75% - 79%
C	70% - 74%
D	60% - 69%
F	below 60%

Course Ground Rules

(a) In class

I really only want you in class if you are going to be paying some attention, so be so kind as to turn off your cell phone, and if you urgently need to have a conversation, or if you want to read the newspaper or do crosswords rather than be in class, you are free to do so, but go elsewhere.

(b) Academic dishonesty

You are required to abide by the Rutgers policy on academic integrity; please familiarize yourself with this policy, you can view it at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml>
Read the section on level three violations and the sanctions that follow!

(c) Absences from class

It is your responsibility to arrange to obtain information (other than the downloadable class slides, and those are outlines) if you miss one or more classes. Please do not ask or send email to the professor or teaching assistant. If you can, arrange in advance for someone in the class that you know to take good notes for you. Most of the videos are not available for separate viewing.

(d) Missing an exam

You will be allowed to take a make-up exam *if*, within one week of the exam, you present a doctor's note or letter from your dean's office to the professor.

(a) For illnesses: I need a doctor's note to verify your illness. So if you get sick, *get a doctor's note*. There is a new system in place, but it is not at all clear how it is going to work, so get a note.

(b) For car accidents: the dean will most likely ask for a police report to verify that the accident took place.

(c) For personal or family emergencies: the dean will most likely require some verification of the emergency (such as a death certificate if a relative has died). If it is a personal issue of some other nature, it will be up to the judgment of the dean to determine whether or not you should be excused from the exam (and thus be allowed to take the make-up).

Basically folks: I need some paper documentation from you.

Note: Your decision to remain enrolled in the course after the first class session is your implicit agreement to abide by everything stated above.