

Syllabus Adolescent Development

333 section B1 – Summer 2012

Version 05-29-2012

Who

Instructor: Estelle Mayhew

Instructor email: emayhew@rci.rutgers.edu

Location: Livingston Classroom building 109

Time: MTWTh 12:20-2:15 pm

Office hours instructor: by appointment

Office location instructor: Room 229, Tillett Hall Livingston Campus

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 and NJ Books

(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, but you can buy standalone access.

- ISBN 0205800823.

- You will be raising a virtual child through the age of 18, and some of the assignments require your answers to some of the questions related to the ones that pop up while you raise your child.
- DO NOT START RAISING YOUR CHILD UNTIL YOU HAVE HEARD ME EXPLAIN THINGS DURING THE FIRST CLASS.
- Raising your child requires 7-10 hours over the course of the semester. The assignments relating to virtual teen will amount to about 10% of your grade.
- Note that the class Zip code is 08854, and the class ID is 14471833.

Class Website

- The class has a Sakai website which you should have access to if you are enrolled in the course.
- 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.

Tentative Class Schedule

Date	Main Topics	Chapters
Tue 5/29	Syllabus & Introduction What is adolescence?	Chapter 1
Wed 5/30	Theories & Research	Chapter 2
Th 5/31	Biology of puberty	Chapter 3
Mon 6/4	Biological issues/Changes in cognition	Chapter 4 – VT1 due
Tue 6/5	Consequences of cogn. Changes	
Wed 6/6	EXAM 1	
Thu 6/7	Family relationships	Chapter 5
Mon 6/11	Changing families/Peer groups	Chapter 6 – VT2 due
Tue 6/12	Popularity & Rejection	
Wed 6/13	Structure of education	Chapter 7
Thu 6/14	School climate & Work	
Mon 6/18	EXAM 2	
Tue 6/19	Leisure/Media	Chapter 8 – VT 3 due
Wed 6/20	Development of achievement	Chapter 9
Thu 6/21	Self-conception & self-esteem	Chapter 11
Mon 6/25	Identity (culture/gender)	Parts of ch. 10 – VT4 due
Tue 6/26	EXAM 3	
Wed 6/27	Moral reasoning	
Thu 6/28	Intimacy/Romance/Sexuality	Chapter 12
Mon 7/2	Externalizing problems	Chapter 13 – VT 5 due
Tue 7/3	Internalizing problems/stress coping	Parts of ch. 14
Wed 7/4	NO CLASS TODAY	
Thu 7/5	EXAM 4	

What makes the grade?

(1) Exams 87%

- There will be four non-cumulative exams.
- The lowest exam grade will be dropped, but you will not get a course grade unless you have completed the fourth (and final) exam.
 - Exam 1, covers chs. 1-4, June 6.
 - Exam 2, covers chs. 5-7, June 18
 - Exam 3, covers chs. 8,9, 11, parts of ch. 10 June 26
 - Exam 4, covers chs. 12, 13, parts of ch 11,14, July 5
- Exam characteristics:
 - 45 Multiple choice questions
 - Covers lecture and book

(2) Virtual teen assignments

- 10% of your grade will be assignments related to Virtual Teen. They will be listed under Tests and quizzes.
- These assignments are your own work, and may not be completed together with other people. You need to raise your very own Virtual Teen.
- 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. The assignments need to show that you reflected on your decisions.

(3) In Class Assignments

- There will be in-class assignments at various points over the session. They will not be announced in advance, and they cannot be made up. Basically, you have to be in class to get the points.
- There will be some redundancy, i.e. more than 3% in assignments will be given. If you do more, the rest will be extra credit.

Grading Scale for letter grades end semester

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) Missing 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. 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

- If you miss exams 1, 2, OR 3, that will count as your lowest grade.
- You MUST take exam 4.
- If you are absent from exam 4, OR MORE than ONE of the other exams, you will be allowed to take a make-up exam (in AUGUST) if, within one week of the exam, you present a doctor's note or letter from your dean's office to the professor.
- Excuse documentation:

(a) For illnesses: I need a doctor's note to verify your illness. So if you get sick, *get a doctor's 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.