

Syllabus Adolescent Development

333 section 05 – Spring 2012

Version 01-09-2012

Who

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

When/where

Location: Lucy Stone Auditorium
Time: Tuesdays & Fridays 10:20 – 11:40
Office hours instructor: Tuesdays, 12:15 - 1:30 pm
Office location instructor: Room 229, Tillett Hall Livingston Campus
Office hours TA: Thursdays 2-4
Office location TA: 629 Tillett

- 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 his 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.
- 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 at unearthly hours 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 WHICH SECTION you are in, as I have 650+ students in several different classes and sections. ***If you forget to indicate your name, your class, or your section I am unlikely to reply to your email. (this applies all the way to the end of the semester).***

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, 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.
- 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.
- The class code for this semester is 14471787.
- Information on virtual teen is on the Sakai site under the "virtual teen" tab
- The assignments will be on SAKAI and need to be turned in on Sakai.

Class Website

- The class has a Sakai website which you should have access to if you are enrolled in the course.
- **MAKE SURE YOU CHECK THAT YOU CAN ACCESS OUR SITE, AND KEEP AN EYE ON ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SITE.**
- 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.

- The assignments will be posted on Sakai. Announcements will also be posted here if there are changes to the schedule.
- Most importantly review questions will be posted on Sakai. They basically spell out what you should know for each exam. If you thoroughly know the answers to the review questions, you will do well in the course.

Tentative Class Schedule

Week	Dates	Topic	Readings	VT assignments
1	Tue, January 17	What is this course? Intro VT	Get the book	
	Fri, January 20	What is adolescence?	Introduction, Chapter 1	
2	Tue, January 24	Theories & Research	Chapter 2	
	Fri, January 27	Biology of puberty	Chapter 3	
3	Tue, January 31	Biological issues		
	Fri, February 3	Changes in cognition	Chapter 4	
4	Tue, February 7	Consequences of cogn. Changes		
	Fri, February 10	Family relationships	Chapter 5	
5	Tue, February 14	Changing families		VT1 due
	Fri, February 17	Peer groups	Chapter 6	
6	Tue, February 21	EXAM 1	Chs. 1-5	
	Fri, February 24	Popularity & Rejection		
7	Tue, February 28	Structure of education	Chapter 7	
	Fri, March 2	School climate & Work		VT2 due
8	Tue, March 6	Culture	Chapter 8	
	Fri, March 9	Leisure and media		
¡Spring Break!				
9	Tue, March 20	Development of achievement	Chapter 9	
	Fri, March 23	Development of achievement		VT 3 due
10	Tue, March 27	Self-conception & self-esteem	Chapter 11	
	Fri, March 30	EXAM 2	Chs. 6-9	
11	Tue, April 3	Identity/Gender	Chapter 10	
	Fri, April 6	Gender/Moral reasoning		
12	Tue, April 10	Development of intimacy	Chapter 12	VT4 due
	Fri, April 13	Romance/sexuality		
13	Tue, April 17	Externalizing problems	Chapter 13	
	Fri, April 20	Internalizing problems		
14	Tue, April 24	Stress, coping	Chapter 14	
	Fri, April 27	Positive development		VT5 due

15	Study		
16	May 9	FINAL EXAM 8:00 – 9:30 am	Normal classroom

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: Feb. 21 covers Introduction & Chapters 1 – 5 30% of grade
Exam 2: March 30 covers Chapters 6 – 9 30% of grade
Final exam: May 9 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

(2) Assignments

- The remaining 10% of your grade will be assignments related to Virtual Teen. They will be posted on the schedule on Sakai and listed under Tests and quizzes. They will start in February. 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. The assignments are supposed to show that you reflected on your decisions.

(3) Extra Credit

- There will be extra credit in the form of clicker questions during class. The total possible extra credit is 5 course points (i.e. half a letter grade).
- The spreadsheets showing responses during a class will be posted within 4 days of the class. It is your responsibility to check if your clicker answers registered. If it was a poll, it will just say if the clicker responded during class, and not indicate what responses were given.
- Sakai announcements will go out with further details.
- THERE IS NO OTHER 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) 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. If there is a web version of the videos, I will post links on the sakai website, but you cannot count on being able to see all video material if you miss class.

(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*.

(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.