

Syllabus Adolescent Development

333 section B1 – Summer 2013

Version 05-28-2013

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 TBA

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 5/28	Syllabus & Introduction What is adolescence?	Chapter 1
Wed 5/29	Theories & Research	Chapter 2
Th 5/30	Biology of puberty	Chapter 3
Mon 6/3	Biological issues/Changes in cognition	Chapter 4
Tue 6/4	Consequences of cogn. Changes	VT1 due
Wed 6/5	Family relationships	Chapter 5
Thu 6/6	Changing families/Peer groups	Chapter 6
Mon 6/10	Popularity & Rejection	VT2 due
Tue 6/11	NO CLASS TODAY	
Wed 6/12	EXAM 1	
Thu 6/13	Structure of education	Chapter 7
Mon 6/17	School climate & Work	
Tue 6/18	Leisure/Achievement	Chapter 8 – VT 3 due
Wed 6/19	Achievement cont'd/ Self-conception	Chapter 9
Thu 6/20	self-esteem/ Identity (culture/gender)	Chapter 11 Parts of ch. 10
Mon 6/24	Moral reasoning	Chapter 12– VT4 due
Tue 6/25	Intimacy/Romance/Sexuality	Chapter 13
Wed 6/26	Externalizing problems	
Thu 6/27	Internalizing problems/stress coping	Parts of ch. 14
Mon 7/1	Group presentations	VT 5 due
Tue 7/2	Group presentations	
Wed 7/3	EXAM 2	
Thu 7/4	NO CLASS TODAY semester over	

What makes the grade?

(1) Exams 80%

- There will be two non-cumulative exams.
 - Exam 1, covers chs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 on June 12 will be 38% of grade.
 - Exam 2, covers chs. 7, 8, 9, (10), 11, 12 and 13 (14) on July 3, will be 42% of grade
- Exam characteristics:
 - 60 Multiple choice questions
 - Covers lecture and book, NOT EVERYTHING IS IN THE BOOK!

(2) Virtual teen assignments 10%

- 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) Group presentations 5%

- There will be a signup for groups on the 4th day of classes (i.e in week 2).
- Groups will prepare presentations on the effect of the ‘new’ media on development in various domains. For example: what is the influence of media on cognition and possibly cognitive development in adolescence?
- Presentations will take place on the last two days of classes.
- Peer evaluations of group work will be taken into account for grading of group presentations.

(4) Attendance 5%

- You get two absence “freebies” for which you won’t be deducted any points. After that every absence is 0.25 course point deduction. In order for an absence to be excused I need documentation of your absence from a doctor or dean.
- 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.

(5) In Class Assignments – Extra credit

- 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.

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 / group presentation

- If you are absent for 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.
- If you miss the group presentation, you must present a doctor's note or letter from the dean's office to the professor, someone else in the group has to present your part, and the peer evaluations of your contribution to the group project will be weighted more heavily.
- See the information on excuse documentation above

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