

# Human Development II - Adolescence

PSY-36200

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**PROFESSOR:**

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► **Note:** If you email me OUTSIDE of Blackboard, please include “**PSY362**” in the subject line ◀

Office Hours: Tuesday – 3pm to 4pm  
Thursday – noon to 1pm  
(or by appointment)

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**TEXT:** Steinberg, L. (2010). *Adolescence (Ninth Edition)*. New York: McGraw-Hill.

Please note that you should read the textbook chapter before viewing the corresponding lecture in Blackboard. Printable outlines are available in Blackboard for all lectures.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

In this course, we will examine adolescent development from a variety of perspectives. We will study the biological, cognitive, and social transitions that take place during adolescence. The material is divided into three sections. The first focuses on the fundamental changes of adolescence. The second section focuses on adolescence in the contexts of families, peer groups, school, and work. The final section deals with psychosocial development. The vast majority of the material will focus on normative development. Students will gain an understanding and appreciation of adolescent development through a variety of readings, writings, online lectures, and online discussion. **This is an internet-only course with 100% of the material being delivered online. Experience and comfort in using a computer to create documents and navigate the internet will be essential to your success.**

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** Students who successfully complete this course will

1. Acquire an appreciation for and understanding of the major transitions that occur in normative adolescent development.
2. Understand the ways in which psychological principles and research methods apply to the study of adolescence.
3. Become familiar with the social and historical influences that have shaped our definition, experience, and understanding of this unique developmental phase of life.
4. Be able to think critically about the material and apply psychological principles to real-world problems and experiences.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

**I. EXAMS (400 points total):** There will be four regular semester exams, each covering approximately 1/4 of the course material. Each exam will comprise 50 multiple-choice questions, which will cover material in the textbook, lectures, and discussions. Exams are worth 100 points each. All of the exams will be administered ONLINE with a 50-minute time limit and test questions will be

administered one at a time. These testing procedures are necessary to ensure testing fairness and create the same opportunity for the slower-paced students to obtain the same grades as the faster-paced students. You also may NOT use your notes or books or consult with other students on these exams!

**Exams will be available from Thursday morning through Saturday evening at 11:00pm**, on exam weeks. You must take the exam during this timeframe. Please complete exams EARLY so that technical problems with Blackboard or other such setbacks will not cause you major difficulties. The exam due dates are:

EXAM 1— due by Saturday 9/15 at 11:00pm

EXAM 2— due by Saturday 10/6 at 11:00pm

EXAM 3— due by Saturday 10/27 at 11:00pm

EXAM 4— due by Saturday 12/1 at 11:00pm

Make-up exams generally are not available in this class and will only be given under extreme circumstances and in the case of a verifiable emergency (e.g., an extreme illness with a doctor's note). If an emergency (not a technical difficulty) prevents you from taking an exam by the posted deadline, you must notify me within 24 hours of the exam. My email and office voicemail are available to you at all times, so notification within this timeframe is mandatory. Make-up exams may be a different format than the regular unit exam (e.g., essay instead of multiple choice).

**\*\* REGARDING TECHNICAL PROBLEMS \*\***

1. **TECHNICAL PROBLEMS:** Technical problems during exam taking should not cause undue alarm. If you experience technical problems while taking an exam that make it impossible for you select answers or move forward, close the exam immediately and go back to it at another time (perhaps an hour or two later), or go to another computer. **DO NOT** complete the entire exam. Then, contact the Help Desk at 260-481-6030 or email [helpdesk@ipfw.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ipfw.edu) so that they can troubleshoot the problem. In addition, you may send me an email explaining the exact technical problem you encountered and I will be able to see that there was a technical difficulty in the time log.
2. **BLACKBOARD PROBLEMS:** If you cannot access Blackboard and it is the final night of an exam's availability, please email me. In the rare case that this occurs, I will be able to check Blackboard's status immediately and make the exam available **24 HOURS MORE**.

NOTE: To be fair to all students, if the technical problem is with an individual's computer or internet connection I **cannot** make an exception and extend the exam deadline. You should begin the exam at least a few hours before the deadline. If your internet fails you then have time to find another computer (e.g., on campus) to complete the exam on time.

**\*\*Reviewing your online exam\*\***

After the online exams have finished, you will see only your final score. You will not see the exam questions, the correct answers, or your incorrect answers. This is necessary to protect the integrity of the exam. You are not required to review an exam once you have taken it. If you would like to find out which items you missed and the correct answers, you have two options:

1. You may make an appointment with me (via email) to look at your exam on campus in my office. In this case, you will be able to look at the questions and answers on my office computer. Or
2. You may make an appointment with me (via email) to review your exam over the phone. In this case, I will read the questions aloud to you and we will discuss the questions that you missed.

**II. ONLINE DISCUSSION BOARD (40 points total):** The four “Unit” forums on our “Discussion Boards” page in Blackboard are the way to earn your discussion/participation points in our class. The goal of the discussion board is to foster an ongoing discussion between students about the material you encounter related to this class. By the end of the semester you should have 8 posts (two for each of the four units), each worth 5 points.

For each of our 4 Units (corresponding to each of the 4 exams) you are expected to:

1. Create at least one new thread/original post, for example

- A question (e.g., something you found confusing in the text or a question/hypothesis about what we might find if we studied a particular topic in more detail)
- A reaction to something you read in the textbook or heard in the lecture
- Personal experiences or information presented in the media relating to the current topic
- Information from an article you read for this chapter

2. Post at least one reply/response to an existing thread/message, for example

- An answer to another student's question
- A follow-up question to another student's post (e.g., about an article they read for their article summary)
- Collaborative ideas relating to another student's hypothesis or research question (e.g., what you think you might find if we studied the topic further, methods you might use to test the hypothesis)
- A connection between one of the personal experiences described by another student on this board and a theory or principle covered in the lecture or text

Please note that you **MUST** add your posts to the appropriate discussion thread **BEFORE** the Unit exam for that chapter. In other words, you will not get any points for a discussion thread post related to chapter 1 after we have already taken the exam for Unit 1. Additionally, when reading through your posts, if I find they are not meeting the criteria for full credit, I will message you in Blackboard to let you know this. If you do not hear from me, you can assume they are fine.

A note about discussion board postings and other communication in this course: Each person in this course has unique prior experiences and a unique viewpoint to share. This offers a great opportunity for us to learn from each other. Though disagreements may occur, and often help to foster learning, I expect your cooperation in maintaining an atmosphere of mutual respect. Hateful and demeaning speech will not be tolerated.

**III. ARTICLE SUMMARY (50 points total):** For either Unit 1 or Unit 2, you will be required to turn in a summary of an empirical article related to material from that unit, worth 50 points. The goal of this assignment is two-fold. First, reading and summarizing a journal article will help you become familiar with the way we study adolescent development empirically in psychology and should help you

prepare for the term paper. Second, the articles will provide you with information that you can use to contribute to the required, online, class discussions.

Your summary should be typed, double-spaced, two to three pages long, and should highlight the major research question(s), methods, and findings of your selected article. You should include the full reference for your article, in APA style, at the end of your article review. Selected articles should be current (i.e., within the last 10 years), empirical in nature (i.e., based on research done by the author, not theoretical or literature reviews), and should relate closely to material from the text. For example, using PsychArticles, you could search for articles with titles containing both “adolescen\*” & “cognition” or “adolescen\*” & “personal fable.” Both of these searches would produce a list of articles that you could summarize related to Chapter 2 in your text. Your article summary/review will be due the same time as the exam for the corresponding unit. (NOTE: Units are divided based on exams: Unit 1 = chapters 1-3; Unit 2 = chapters 4-6).

You will use the “PsychArticles” database to find your article. Note that all articles in this database are available as full-text papers right on your computer. This is important, because I will want to be able to read each of the articles you summarize. With PsychArticles, and the full reference you provide at the end of your summary, I can access your article without you having to turn the article in to me. Handouts on the PsychArticles database and APA format are available on our “Assignments” page in Blackboard, where you will submit your article summary.

Again, article summaries are due the same time as the corresponding unit exam, but may be submitted earlier and as soon as we begin that unit. For example, an article summary related to chapter 4 (which is in Unit 2), is due by Saturday 10/6 at 11:00pm (like the exam for Unit 2).

#### **IV. TERM PAPER: (100 points)**

Your term paper will be a review of the literature on a topic relevant to the psychology of adolescence. You should select one of the topics from class which you would like to study further and review and discuss four to six published studies on that topic. Your sources will be recent, empirical articles (in the last 10 to 12 years) from psychological journals. **You must also submit a typed “plan,” due via Blackboard on Friday October 12<sup>th</sup>.** Your plan should include a statement of thesis or a research question (e.g., “are there gender differences in the experience of the personal fable?” or “what have been the effects of interventions to ease school transitions?”) and a list of the references you will use to address your thesis or question on an APA-format/style reference page. Your plan is worth 15 of the total 100 points. It will be graded and returned and should be submitted along with your final paper. The **main body of your final paper should be five to six pages** typed, double spaced, and must follow APA format with regard to in-text citations and the reference page. **The final paper is due in Blackboard on Friday November 2<sup>nd</sup>,** although you may submit it early. Early papers, turned in by Friday October 26<sup>th</sup> will earn 5 bonus points. If you plan to submit your paper early, please note this at the beginning of your plan. Late papers will lose 10 points per day late (accepted up to 5 days late).

**V. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** Violating academic integrity is considered a serious offense by the university and is treated accordingly. Violation of academic integrity includes, but is not limited to, all of the following: cheating on an exam, having unauthorized possession of exams, working with another student on individual assignments or tests, and submitting the work of another person as your own (plagiarism). Academic dishonesty may result in, at the very least, a failing grade for that particular exam/assignment or failing the entire course. **Working with another student on an exam is not allowed and will result in failing this class.**

## GRADING CRITERIA

### Points Breakdown

<u>Category</u>	<u>Points</u>
Exams (4 at 100 points each)	400
Final Paper (100 points)	100
Article Summaries (1 at 50 points each)	50
Discussion Board (40 points each)	40
Syllabus Quiz	<u>15</u>

Total = 605 points

### Letter Grades Will Be Assigned As Follows:

A = 90-100% / B = 80-89% / C = 70-79% / D = 60-69% / F = less than 60%

### Resources for Students

- *Tutoring: The Spot Tutoring Free tutoring (up to 2 hours per week, per course) is available through CASA in KT G21 (481- 6817). Sign up online 12 hours in advance. Drop-in Tutoring also available from 8 am until 8 pm Monday through Thursday and 8 am till 5 pm on Friday.*
- *Technical Help:For information and tutorials on using Blackboard Learn, you can access the 'Blackboard Help for Students" website at <http://help.blackboard.com/student/index.htm>. If you have technical problems in using Blackboard, you may contact the IT Help Desk at 260-481-6030 or by email at [helpdesk@ipfw.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ipfw.edu)*
- *Assistance for Students with Special Needs: **Provisions for students who cannot access auditory or visual content** – The Services for Students with Disabilities office provides free and appropriate academic aids and services including the use of accessible computers and assistive equipment, reader and sign interpreter services, special test proctoring services, academic support and counseling assistance specific to disability issues, and more. SSD also serves the campus community as an advocate/consultant resource on all disability related issues.*

*DISABILITIES STATEMENT: If you have a disability and need assistance, special arrangements can be made to accommodate most needs. Contact the Director of Services for Students with Disabilities (Walb, room 113, telephone number 481-6658), as soon as possible to work out the details. Once the Director has provides you with a letter attesting to your needs for modification, bring the letter to me. For more information, please visit the web site for SSD at <http://www.ipfw.edu/ssd>*

- *Student Assistance Program Personal Counseling:  
The Student Assistance Program offers a variety of brief counseling and consultation services by a /professional counselor: Walb 113. Phone: 260-266-8060 or 1-(800)721-8809. Website: <http://new.ipfw.edu/counseling/>*

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### UNIT 1

M Aug 20: Introduction to the course & syllabus, Biological Transitions – Chapter 1

**SYLLABUS QUIZ – DUE BEFORE 11:00PM ON SATURDAY ► 8/25/12 ◀**

M Aug 27: Biological Transitions – Chapter 1

M Sept 3: Cognitive Transitions – Chapter 2

M Sept 10: Social Transitions – Chapter 3

**\*EXAM 1 (Chapters 1, 2, & 3) – DUE BEFORE 11:00PM ON SATURDAY ► 9/15/12 ◀**

**\*Article Summary Due also before 11pm on 9/15/12 – If your article relates to Unit 1**

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### UNIT 2

M Sept 17: Families – Chapter 4

M Sept 24: Peer Groups – Chapter 5

M Oct 1: Schools – Chapter 6

**\*EXAM 2 (Chapters 4, 5, & 6) – DUE BEFORE 11:00PM ON SATURDAY ► 10/6/12 ◀**

**\*Article Summary Due also before 11pm on 10/6/12 – If your article relates to Unit 2**

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### UNIT 3

M Oct 8: Work & Leisure – Chapter 7 (**\*Term Paper Plan Due Friday 10/12 – please note if you intend to submit your term paper early on your plan**)

M Oct 15: Identity – Chapter 8

M Oct 22: Autonomy – Chapter 9 (Early term papers due Friday 10/26 for 5 point bonus)

**\*EXAM 3 (Chapters 7, 8, & 9) – DUE BEFORE 11:00PM ON SATURDAY ► 10/27/12 ◀**

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### UNIT 4

M Oct 29: Intimacy – Chapter 10 (**\*Term Paper Due Friday 11/2**)

M Nov 5: Sexuality – Chapter 11

M Nov 12: Achievement – Chapter 12

M Nov 19: Psychosocial Problems – Chapter 13

M Nov 26: Psychosocial Problems – Chapter 13

**\*EXAM 4 (Chpts. 10, 11, 12, & 13) – DUE BEFORE 11:00PM ON SAT. ► 12/1/12 ◀**

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\* Note: Discussion Board posts are due the same time as the exam for the corresponding unit.