

**Psychology 3140: Psychology of Adolescence
Spring 2012**

Time: 10:30 – 11:45 am, Tues, Thurs

Location: SS 317

Instructor: Trisha Weeks trishaweeks@weber.edu

Office: 380 E
hours by appointment

Textbook:

Adolescence 9th Edition, by Laurence Steinberg. McGraw Hill: New York, New York.

ISBN-10: 0073532037

ISBN-13: 978-0073532035

Learning Objectives:

The course will examine theories of and research methods in adolescent psychology from a developmental framework. The objectives are:

- 1.) To examine research and theory regarding the nature of and interrelation between adolescents' physical, cognitive, social, and personality development and how these relations vary by context (family, peers, culture)
- 2.) To apply knowledge about adolescent psychology to the understanding of adolescent behavior.
- 3.) To appreciate the research strategies used by psychologists to test and support their claims about adolescence.

Assignments:

Exams: will be worth 100 points each (40-60% of your grade). Exams will be given in class, and will be based on information from the assigned chapters in the textbook, and class discussions. Exams 1 and 2 will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. Exam 3 will be an oral exam, which consists of a round table discussion in which you must participate in order to get credit.

Papers: There will be two papers (100 points each; 20-40% of your grade) due during the semester. The first paper consists of choosing an issue of importance to adolescent development, and advocating for a particular policy change based on our understanding of adolescent development. It is due on Feb 23rd.

The second paper is due on April 19th. It consists of an analysis of an adolescent movie character, using the theoretical concepts and evidence based research we will be studying during the semester. More information on the content and structure of both papers follows below.

Late policy: In general, I expect you to turn papers in on the due date. However, if extenuating circumstances arise (e.g., serious illness, family emergency, etc.), I am willing

to negotiate a later due date. This usually requires you to document the emergency/illness, and to contact me as early as possible once you know you will need an extension.

In-class Assignments/Participation: (100 points: 20% of your grade). In order to facilitate class discussion, the assigned chapters need to be read before class. In addition, attendance is expected, as is participation in classroom work and discussions. I do not take daily attendance. However, I do collect in-class assignments throughout the semester. These are usually credit/no credit assignments, meaning that extensive study is not required for success. I will total these assignments at the end of the semester for an overall classroom participation score. This score will be worth 20% of your grade. These assignments are due in class. I will not accept late assignments or makeup work.

Note, however, that although I do expect and require attendance, I also know that conflicts and emergencies occasionally arise. Therefore, there is a built-in forgiveness policy in the calculation of this portion of your grade. Specifically, if you complete 90-100% of the assignments, you will receive full credit (100 points). If you complete 89% of the assignments or less, you will receive points for whatever portion of the assignments you completed, plus 10 points. (e.g., if you completed 85% of the in-class assignments, you would receive 95 points; 62% completion results in 72 points).

Forgiveness Policy: I will drop your lowest exam score, or your lowest paper score. However, this means that, except for extreme circumstances, I will not give make-up exams. In order to take full advantage of this policy, plan to study for and take all three exams, and complete both of the assigned papers on time. Specifically, students who skip an exam or paper, then become ill during a subsequent exam will not be given a make-up exam.

Grading: 500 points possible

A : 92% or 460 points	B: 83% or 415	C: 73% or 365	D: 63% or 315
A-: 90% or 450 points	B-: 80% or 400	C-: 70% or 350	D-: 60% or 300
B+: 87% or 435 points	C+: 77% or 350	D+: 67% or 335	F: Below 60% <300

Statement Regarding Student Accommodations: Weber State University is committed to equal opportunity in education for all students, including those with documented physical disabilities or documented learning disabilities. Weber State University policy states that it is the responsibility of students to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in room 181 of the Student Service center. SSD can also arrange to provide course materials (including this syllabus) in alternative formats if necessary. The instructor will meet with the student and staff members of the SSD to formulate a written plan for appropriate accommodations, if required.

Course Schedule: (subject to change)

Date	Discussion Topic/Reading Assignment
week 1: Tues, Jan 3:	syllabus, and introduction
Thurs, Jan 5:	intro
week 2: Tues, Jan 10:	Chapter 1: biology of adolescence
Thurs, Jan 12:	Chapter 1: biology of adolescence
week 3: Tues, Jan 17:	Chapter 2: Cognitive Transitions
Thurs, Jan 19:	Chapter 2: Cognitive Transitions
week 4: Tues, Jan 24:	Chapter 2 & 3: Cognitive/Social transitions
Thurs, Jan 26:	Chapter 3: Social Transitions
week 5: Tues Jan 31:	Chapter 3: Social Transitions & exam review
Thurs, Feb 2:	Exam 1
week 6: Tues, Feb 7:	Chapter 4: Families
Thurs, Feb 9:	Chapter 4: Families
week 7: Tues, Feb 14:	Chapter 5: Peer groups: pg. 171-180
Thurs, Feb 16:	Chapter 7: Work, leisure, media
week 8: Tues, Feb 21:	Chapter 7: Work, leisure, media
Thurs, Feb 23:	Chapter 8: Identity: self-conception & -esteem (to pg. 258)
	1st paper due
week9: Tues, Feb 28:	Chapter 12: Achievement: pg. 374-380 and more of ch 8
Thurs, Mar 1:	Chapter 8: Identity
week10:Tues Mar 6:	review for Exam 2
Thurs, Mar 8:	Exam 2
week11:	<i>no class: spring break</i>
week12:Tues Mar 20:	Chapter 9: Autonomy
Thurs, Mar 22:	Chapter 9: Autonomy
week13:Tues Mar 27:	Chapter 11: Sexuality
Thurs, Mar 29:	Chapter 11: Sexuality
week14:Tues Apr 3:	Chapter 12: Psycho-Social Problems
Thurs, Apr 5:	Chapter 12: Psycho-Social Problems
week15:Tues Apr 10:	catch up, integration, and prep for exam 3 round table
Thurs, Apr 12:	Exam3: Round table discussion
week16: finals week:	meet Thursday, April 19 th , 11:00am – 12:50 am.
	final paper due