

Prepared by the Department of Social Sciences & Human Services

Date of Departmental Approval: February 12, 2010

Date approved by Curriculum and Programs: March 3, 2010

Effective: Fall 2010

1. Course Number: PSY202

Course Title: Adolescent Psychology

2. Description: Physical, emotional, intellectual and social development of the human being during adolescence. Suggested for students planning to major in psychology, education, social work, or related areas.

3. Student Learning Outcomes:

A. Knowledge Base of Adolescent Psychology

Students who successfully complete the course will understand the major concepts, theoretical perspectives and empirical findings of adolescent psychology. Specifically, students will remember and understand theories of adolescent development; physical, cognitive and moral development; adolescent development in the multiple contexts of family, peers, and school; sex roles and sexuality; the impact of ethnicity and social class on adolescent development; psycho-social problems of adolescence. Students analyze and evaluate the impact of media and technology on contemporary adolescent development.

B. Research Methods in Adolescent Psychology

Students who successfully complete the course will evaluate the validity of conclusions derived from psychological research on adolescent development. Students will distinguish the nature of designs that permit causal inferences from those that suggest correlation. Students will recognize that individual differences and sociocultural contexts may influence the applicability of research findings. Students will locate and use relevant databases in the creation of research papers and presentations.

C. Critical Thinking Skills

Students who successfully complete the course will apply critical thinking skills in their analysis and understanding of all course materials. Students will compare and contrast the theoretical perspectives of adolescent development and psychology. Students will use reasoning to develop, defend and criticize arguments and approach problems effectively.

D. Application of Psychology

Students who successfully complete the course will articulate how psychological principles can be used to explain social issues and inform public policy relevant to adolescent development. Students will identify appropriate applications of psychology in solving psycho-social problems. Students will recognize that ethically complex situations can develop in the application of psychological principles.

4. Credits: Three credits

5. Satisfies a General Education Requirement: Behavioral and Social Sciences

6. Prerequisite: PSY101

7. Semester(s) Offered: Fall, Spring

8. Suggested General Guidelines for Evaluation: The methods of assessment used to measure these outcomes are written assignments, tests, class discussion and small group activity and presentations.

9. General Topical Outline (Optional):

- Theories of Adolescence
- Physical and Cognitive Development in Adolescence
- Sexuality and Sex Roles
- Moral Development in Adolescence
- The Adolescent in School
- The Family and Peers
- Social Class and Ethnicity
- Achievement and Career
- Psychosocial Problems in Adolescence