

Dominican College
PS 215: Adolescent Psychology Online Course
Spring 2021: January 27 – May 14

Professor: Lisa M. DeBellis, Ph.D.
Hours: By appointment
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Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce students to development in the adolescent years. Specifically, this course will introduce students to theory, research, and application of developmental psychology during the period of adolescence. A broad overview of areas related to the science of developmental psychology will be discussed focusing on puberty, gender, families, sexuality, peers, schools, health, and risk-taking behaviors. Special attention will be given to development in areas such as identity, cognition, morality, and social-emotional domains of functioning.

Textbook (Required):

Santrock, John W. (2016). *Adolescence (16th Edition)*. New York: McGraw Hill.

Course Objectives:

At the completion of this course, students should have accomplished the following major objectives:

1. To develop habits of mind for lifetime learning and critical thinking by studying and understanding past and present concepts and research related to adolescent development.
2. To prepare for successful major study in academic and professional areas by improving presentation and writing skills.
3. To develop an appreciation for the importance of adolescent psychology in understanding ourselves and our perception and understanding of others and our social environment.
4. To summarize the developmental processes, periods, transitions, and issues related to adolescence and emerging adults.

Academic Learning Objectives:

1. Students will discover and utilize information through responsible use of appropriate technologies.
2. Students will express and exchange ideas effectively through various modes of communication.

Course Format, Policies, & Requirements:

At times this is a very work-intensive class. At multiple points during the course of the semester you will be required to read for class, listen to lectures, work on assignments, participate in discussion forums, and research a paper. At the same time, you might be studying for an exam or quiz. Do not procrastinate or you will get behind. If you are having difficulty understanding the material, please make an effort to ask for help earlier in the session rather than later. I will not be sympathetic to someone who contacts me at the end of the course asking for help if they have not sought help from me earlier in the session.

Narrated PowerPoint slides corresponding to each textbook chapter will be posted on Blackboard each week. These lectures will help to clarify the material presented to you in your textbook and raise new questions, topics, and ideas. Listening carefully to these lectures, and taking thorough notes while doing so, will greatly aid in your success during this course.

Netiquette:

Effective written communication is an important part of online learning. In a face-to-face classroom, body language, verbal responses, and questions help the instructor and students communicate with each other. In an online environment, however, misunderstandings can easily occur when participants do not follow basic rules of netiquette (online etiquette). Therefore, please use the following guidelines when communicating in this course:

- Do not use all capital letters in online communication, as doing so indicates you are shouting. Limited use of capitalized words is acceptable when you need to emphasize a point.
- Use a descriptive subject line in forum posts, not just “re: their post”.
- Include your name in all e-mails because recipients cannot always tell who you are based on your e-mail address.
- While you may use emoticons in off-topic forum, chats, and messages, please do not use them in your forum responses or reflective questions. [Examples... :) = happy; :(= sad; ;) = wink]
- Derogatory comments, ranting, rude, and vulgar language are not acceptable in any form of communication in this course.
- Please keep in mind that something considered offensive may be unintentional. If you are concerned about communication, content, or something that appears unacceptable, please inform your instructor.

Written Work/Assignments:

All papers and assignments should be ***typed*** in Microsoft Word and ***double spaced*** using a 12-point font. Margins should be 1” on all sides. This will allow me to clearly read your writing. All requirements are due on the day stipulated in the syllabus. Any requirement handed in late will have points deducted from its final grade. Work handed in prior to the due date will be gladly accepted.

Course Policies:

Academic Dishonesty: It is against the academic rules of the college to cheat or plagiarize. All assignments submitted for credit must be your own work. If you include another person’s thoughts, ideas, or writings, you must acknowledge the source. Using other people’s work to bolster your own ideas or to emphasize your main points is completely acceptable when you properly cite the source according to APA format. Plagiarism, however, will not be tolerated in this course. Submitting work for credit that has been previously used to fulfill requirements for another course is strictly prohibited. *In addition, if you cheat (use unauthorized material, information, or study aids on any paper/assignment/quiz), plagiarize (knowingly represent someone else’s words or ideas as your own), fabricate (alter or invent the information you submit), or assist in another student’s academic dishonesty, you will receive a ZERO on that paper/assignment/quiz and I will report you to the appropriate College administrators, faculty, and/or staff members.*

Students with Special Needs: Individuals who have disabilities, either permanent or temporary, which affects their ability to perform in this class are encouraged to speak with Margaret Giuliano from the Offices of Special Services (845-848-4035) and inform the instructor at the start of the semester. Accommodations will be made; however, it is the student's responsibility to remind the professor before every assignment or test/quiz requiring accommodations that such actions are necessary.

Student Handbook: Students in this course are expected to abide by all policies and procedures stated in the Dominican College Student Handbook [<https://www.dc.edu/campus-life/studentresources/student-handbook/>]. You are also encouraged to make use of the many resources that the College provides to enhance your learning experience. Give particular attention to the following parts of the Handbook:

- a. Academic Success Center (ASC)
- b. Special Services
- c. Title IX/NYS Education Law 129B
- d. Academic Integrity

Graded Requirements:

Discussion Board:

Your participation is a crucial element of this class. By your participation, you will avoid boredom and enhance your learning experience. Participation will be recorded via your ability to discuss relevant information in the Discussion Board and will be evaluated weekly as an important part of your grade. What you say, how much you say, how you say it, etc. are all important to your grade.

Each week, you will participate in a Discussion Board. The forum will be related to the content in the textbook and/or a current issue in the field of adolescent psychology. Students are required to post an initial response to the Discussion Board prompt(s) no later than Thursday at 11:55p.m. Each student will also be required to respond to the initial posting of at least two classmates by 11:55 p.m. on the Friday after the initial posting.

Postings are required to be well thought-out responses written in full sentences that include appropriate grammar and APA citations. Student responses to two additional students should lead to further conversation. That is, do not simply state "I agree..." but ask a question, give an example, raise an issue with another student's initial posting, discuss a related issue, or bring up additional outside information to enhance the quality of the discussion.

Little to no discussion will hurt your final grade even if you have perfect scores on everything else. All students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is courteous to other students and respectful of beliefs, opinions, etc. The student receiving the highest grade will contribute to the best of his/her ability and will add to the discussions his/her insights, values, and opinions *from the readings AND personal experiences*.

Quizzes:

Each week, a quiz will be posted on Blackboard. Quizzes will test your knowledge of the content covered that week in the textbook and in videos/lectures (and any other material) posted on Blackboard. Quizzes

will be comprised of 20 multiple choice questions. Quizzes will NOT be available after the due date has passed. Failure to complete the quiz on time will result in a grade of zero.

Annotated Bibliography:

Your final project in this course will be an annotated bibliography based on a topic related to adolescent psychology. A detailed description of this project is posted on Blackboard under “Course Documents.” This project will be completed in two parts. In Part 1, you will submit your research question and references (three empirical articles found using the DC library databases). Research questions/topics and articles must be approved by me in advance. In Part 2, you will submit your title page, annotated bibliography, and summary. This assignment must be submitted on Blackboard through Turn It In and be typed using Microsoft Word.

Reflections:

After completing each learning session, you will reflect on what you learned from your participation in this course. Think about and synthesize what you learned from your textbook, videos, and lectures. Answer the following questions: 1) What is something interesting that you learned in your study of adolescent psychology? 2) How does it relate to a real-world experience you have had personally or observed? 3) What do you want to learn more about? Answer in full sentences and in paragraph form. You will submit your reflections directly on Blackboard, and they must be typed using Microsoft Word.

Final Exam:

Your final exam will be cumulative and will test your knowledge of all concepts and topics covered in the course. The final exam will be posted on Blackboard. It will not be available after the due date passes. Failure to complete the final exam on time will result in a grade of zero.

Grading

Your grade for this course will be computed using a points system. This grade will be based on all requirements for this course. The grade and assignment breakdown is as follows:

Discussion Boards (14 x 25 points)	350
Quizzes (13 x 10 points)	130
Reflections (7 x 20 points)	140
Annotated Bibliography	260
Final Exam	120
Total	1000

Points Earned	Equivalent Grade
950 - 1000	A
900 – 940	A -
870 - 890	B +
830 - 860	B
800 - 820	B -
770 - 790	C +
730 - 760	C

700 - 720	C -
660 - 690	D +
600 – 650	D
Below 600	F

***NOTE:** The instructor reserves the right to adjust your final grade either up or down in light of your number of late assignments.

Course Schedule:

Session # and Title:	Week #:	Readings & Lectures:	Assignments & Due Dates:
1: Foundations of Adolescent Psychology	1	Syllabus	Discussion 1 Initial Post due Thurs. (1/28) by 11:55 PM Response posts due Fri. (1/29) by 11:55 PM
	2	Ch. 1 Slides, Ch.1	Discussion 2 Initial Post due Thurs. (2/4) by 11:55 PM Response posts due Fri. (2/5) by 11:55 PM
			Quiz 1 due Fri., 2/5 by 11:55 PM
			Reflection 1 due Fri., 2/5 by 11:55 PM
2: Physical and Cognitive Development during Adolescence	3	Ch. 2 Slides, Ch. 2	Discussion 3 Initial Post due Thurs. (2/11) by 11:55 PM Response posts due Fri. (2/12) by 11:55 PM
			Quiz 2 due Fri., 2/12 by 11:55 PM
	4	Ch. 3 Slides, Ch. 3	Discussion 4 Initial Post due Thurs. (2/18) by 11:55 PM Response posts due Fri. (2/19) by 11:55 PM
			Quiz 3 due Fri., 2/19 by 11:55 PM
			Reflection 2 due Fri., 2/19 by 11:55 PM
3: Emotional and Moral Development during Adolescence	5	Ch. 4 Slides, Ch. 4	Discussion 5 Initial Post due Thurs. (2/25) by 11:55 PM Response posts due Fri. (2/26) by 11:55 PM
			Quiz 4 due Fri., 2/26 by 11:55 PM
	6	Ch. 7 Slides, Ch. 7	Discussion 6 Initial Post due Thurs. (3/4) by 11:55 PM Response posts due Fri. (3/5) by 11:55 PM
			Quiz 5 due Fri., 3/5 by 11:55 PM
			Reflection 3 due Fri., 3/5 by 11:55 PM
4: Gender & Sexuality	7	Ch. 5 Slides, Ch. 5	Discussion 7 Initial Post due Thurs. (3/11) by 11:55 PM Response posts due Fri. (3/12) by 11:55 PM
			Quiz 6 due Fri., 3/12 by 11:55 PM
	8	Ch. 6 Slides, Ch. 6	Discussion 8 Initial Post due Thurs. (3/18) by 11:55 PM Response posts due Fri. (3/19) by 11:55 PM
			Quiz 7 due Fri., 3/19 by 11:55 PM
			Reflection 4 due Fri., 3/19 by 11:55 PM
5: Social Relationships during Adolescence	9	Ch. 8 Slides, Ch. 8	Discussion 9 Initial Post due Thurs. (3/25) by 11:55 PM Response posts due Fri. (3/26) by 11:55 PM
			Quiz 8 due Fri., 3/26 by 11:55 PM
	10	<i>Spring Break</i>	<i>No assignments due (4/1 and 4/2)</i>
	11	Ch. 9 Slides, Ch. 9	Discussion 10 Initial Post due Thurs. (4/8) by 11:55 PM Response posts due Fri. (4/9) by 11:55 PM
			Quiz 9 due Fri., 4/9 by 11:55 PM
			Reflection 5 due Fri., 4/9 by 11:55 PM

6: Environmental Contexts	12	Ch. 10 Slides, Ch. 10	Discussion 11 Initial Post due Thurs. (4/15) by 11:55 PM
			Response posts due Fri. (4/16) by 11:55 PM
			Quiz 10 due Fri., 4/16 by 11:55 PM
			<i>Annotated Bibliography Part 1 due Fri. (4/16) by 11:55 PM</i>
	13	Ch. 12 Slides, Ch. 12	Discussion 12 Initial Post due Thurs. (4/22) by 11:55 PM
			Response posts due Fri. (4/23) by 11:55 PM
			Quiz 11 due Fri., 4/23 by 11:55 PM
			Reflection 6 due Fri., 4/23 by 11:55 PM
7: Adaptive and Maladaptive Behaviors	14	Ch. 11 Slides, Ch. 11	Discussion 13 Initial Post due Thurs. (4/29) by 11:55 PM
			Response posts due Fri. (4/30) by 11:55 PM
			Quiz 12 due Fri., 4/30 by 11:55 PM
	15	Ch. 13 Slides, Ch. 13	Discussion 14 Initial Post due Thurs. (5/6) by 11:55 PM
			Response posts due Fri. (5/7) by 11:55 PM
			Quiz 13 due Fri., 5/7 by 11:55 PM
			Reflection 7 due Fri., 5/7 by 11:55 PM
			<i>Annotated Bibliography Part 2 due Sun., 5/9 by 11:55 PM</i>
Final Exams Week	16		<i>Final Exam administered on BB, due Fri., 5/14 by 7:00 PM</i>

**This syllabus may be revised as needed to ensure the educational quality and fairness of the course. If changes are made, a revised syllabus will be provided.*