

BS 4013 **Seminar in Behavioral Science**

Fall 2005

Instructor: Vangie N. Blust

Office: Dunton 22, Phone: 8295

Office Hours: MTh, 11-12, 3:30-5 or By Appointment

Class Time: 2-3:15, Ackley 336

Seminar in Behavioral Science provides an opportunity for an in-depth study, analysis, and discussion of a topic of special interest to students and faculty. This semester, the course focus is Coming of Age: Trends, Issues, and Diversity

The present generation of adolescents, especially in the United States, is raised in space and time unprecedented in terms of changes in family structure and functions, social and economic development, and technological advancement. In this age of the shrinking world, the same may be true for adolescents in other regions of the globe. Issues that they encounter are not only developmental, but also those derived from institutional changes. They also vary by social class, race, gender, health/physical abilities, and culture. In this course, we then aim to accomplish the following:

1. Gain knowledge and understanding of the theories of adolescence and their practical application to adolescent development.
2. Understand adolescents ' needs and how the family, peers, schools, and other institutions respond to those needs.
3. Familiarize ourselves with developmental issues in adolescence, problem behaviors and intervention across cultures, race, gender, and health/physical abilities.
4. Learn to examine adolescent lives through both quantitative and qualitative approaches to research in the area.

Readings: See Course Topics

Class Requirements:

1. Attendance

As a seminar course, our focus in learning is through active exchange. It is imperative, then, that you are around all the time.

2. Journal

Preparation for class is essential to an informed discussion. A multi-purpose journal is to be kept and brought to class all the time. It is a place for writing down compelling ideas, speculating, questioning, probing, and reacting. You can also make connections between the materials you have read, between ideas in the readings and your personal experience and observations. I will collect the journals once a week and try to respond to your entries all the time.

3. Participation

As indicated above, the course is an interchange of ideas. We can only

accomplish this if everyone participates in informed discussion. It is necessary that you keep up with the readings and come to class with questions and issues of concern. Your journal will be useful here.

Responsibility for leading class sessions will be shared. One or two people will be in charge of the class: prepare an outline for the whole period and questions associated with the readings, plan classroom activities, and engage everybody in them. Peer evaluation will be part of your grade in this requirement.

4. Exams

A midterm and a final exam are scheduled and will be administered on a take-home basis. These exams should represent the culmination of your learning efforts at each period.

5. Projects and presentations

You will be required two projects during the semester which you have to present to class. One will be a case study of an adolescent; the other is a literature review that focuses on a topic of your choice on diversity in coming of age.

Grade:

Your grade in the course will be based on the quality of your work and contribution to the class. Below will be the approximate breakdown of your grade:

Journal-----	20%
Exams-----	30%
Participation-----	20%
Projects-----	30%

Course Topics

I. Introduction, expectations, and requirements

II. Background in the study of adolescence: History, theory, and research

Introduction of J.J. Arnett (2001) Adolescence and Emerging Adulthood: A Cultural Approach. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Schlegel, A. "A Cross-Cultural Approach to Adolescence." In Muus, R.E. and H.D. Porton (1999) Adolescent Behavior and Society.; Boston McGrawHill.

Hine, T. "The Rise and Decline of the Teenager." In Meehan, A.M. and E. Astor-Stetson (2001) Annual Editions: Adolescent psychology. 2001/2002. Guilford, CT: McGraw-Hill/Dushkin.

III. Space and Time Use of Adolescents: Implications to finding meanings in life

Childress, H. (2000). Landscapes of Betrayal, Landscapes of Joy: Curtisville in the Lives of its Teenagers. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press.

Ritchie, A., C.B. Lloyd, and M. Grant (2004) "Gender Differences in Time Use Among Adolescents in Developing Countries: Implications of Rising School Enrollment". The Population Council, Inc.
<http://www.popcouncil.org/pdfs/wp/193.pdf>

Verma, S. and R.W. Larson (2003) Examining Adolescent Leisure Time Across Cultures: Developmental Opportunities and Risks: New Directions for Child and Adolescent Development.

IV. Cognitive Growth and Education

Fallis, R.K. and S. Opatow . "Are Students Failing School or Are Schools Failing Students? Class Cutting in High School." In Duffy, K.G. (2004). Annual Editions: Adolescent Psychology, 2004/2005. Guilford, CT: McGraw-Hill/Dushkin

Deschenes, N.M. and H.B. Clark. "Best Practices in Transition Programs" In Duffy, K.G. (2004). Annual Editions: Adolescent Psychology, 2004/2005. Guilford, CT: McGraw-Hill/Dushkin.

"Technology in the classroom: How it is changing (and not changing) learning." In Duffy, K.G. (2004). Annual Editions: Adolescent Psychology, 2004/2005. Guilford, CT: McGraw-Hill/Dushkin.

Hinley, S.A., et al. (2005) "Adolescent computer use and academic achievement. " Adolescence, 40, 158, pp. 305-318.

Xin Ma. "Sense of belonging to school: Can schools make a difference?" In Duffy, K.G. (2004). Annual Editions: Adolescent Psychology, 2004/2005. Guilford, CT: McGraw-Hill/Dushkin.

Thompson, F.T. and W.P. Austin. "Television Viewing and Academic Achievement Revisited." In Duffy, K.G. (2004). Annual Editions: Adolescent Psychology, 2004/2005. Guilford, CT: McGraw-Hill/Dushkin.

Chaker, A.M. "The New Cheating Epidemic. " In Duffy, K.G. (2004). Annual Editions: Adolescent Psychology, 2004/2005. Guilford, CT: McGraw-Hill/Dushkin.

Hemmer, B. "Studies reveal strengths, weaknesses in improving rates of high school graduation and college completion for low-income and minority students." In Duffy, K.G. (2004). Annual Editions: Adolescent Psychology, 2004/2005. Guilford, CT: McGraw-Hill/Dushkin.

Wilgoren, J. "Girls rule." In Duffy, K.G. (2004). Annual Editions: Adolescent Psychology, 2004/2005. Guilford, CT: McGraw-Hill/Dushkin.

IV. Identity and Socioemotional Development

Kroger, J. "Perspectives on Identity." In J. Kroger (2000). Identity Development: Adolescence through Adulthood. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications, Inc.

Jensen, L.A. "Coming of age in a multicultural world: globalization and adolescent cultural identity formation." In Duffy, K.G. (2004). Annual Editions: Adolescent Psychology, 2004/2005. Guilford, CT: McGraw-Hill/Dushkin.

Baldwin, S.A. and J.P. Hoffman. "The dynamics of self-esteem: A growth-curve analysis." In Duffy, K.G. (2004). Annual Editions: Adolescent Psychology, 2004/2005. Guilford, CT: McGraw-Hill/Dushkin.

Elksnin, L.K. and N. Elksnin. "Fostering social-emotional learning in the classroom." In Duffy, K.G. (2004). Annual Editions: Adolescent Psychology, 2004/2005. Guilford, CT: McGraw-Hill/Dushkin.

V. Sex and Sexuality

Mead, M. (1928) Coming of Age in Samoa

Ponton, L. "The sex lives of teenagers." In Duffy, K.G. (2004). Annual Editions: Adolescent Psychology, 2004/2005. Guilford, CT: McGraw-Hill/Dushkin.

Halpern-Fisher, B. L. (2004) "Adolescents' efficacy to communicate about sex." Adolescence, 39, 155, pp. 443-456.

Levinson, R.A., et al. (2004) "The impact of cultural context on Brazilian adolescents' sexual practices." Adolescence, 39, 154, pp. 203-227.

Hartell, C.G. (2005) "HIV/AIDS in South Africa: A review of sexual behaviors among adolescents." Adolescence, 40, 157.

VI. Peers and Youth Culture

“Global teen culture- Does it Exist?” In Duffy, K.G. (2004). Annual Editions: Adolescent Psychology,2004/2005. Guilford, CT: McGraw-Hill/Dushkin.

“New research explores effects of rap music on adolescents.” In Duffy, K.G. (2004). Annual Editions: Adolescent Psychology,2004/2005. Guilford, CT: McGraw-Hill/Dushkin.

Wolak, J., et al. (2002). “Close online relationships in a national sample of Adolescents.” Adolescence, 37, 148, pp. 441-455.

VI. Problem Behaviors and Interventions

Portes, P., et al. (2002) “Understanding adolescent suicide: A psychosocial interpretation of developmental and contextual factors.” Adolescence, 37, 148, pp. 805-814.

Connor, D.F. “Aggression and anti-social behavior in youth,” In Duffy, K.G. (2004). Annual Editions: Adolescent Psychology,2004/2005. Guilford, CT: McGraw-Hill/Dushkin.

VII. Project Presentations

Final Exam- Wednesday, December 14, 3:30

Note: The instructor reserves the right to change any part of this syllabus if and when necessary.