

**PSY 312 Adolescent Psychology
Spring 2006**

GENERAL:

Instructor: Brian R. Johnson, Ph.D.

Classroom: 5-103

Course website: <http://www.gettingunstuck.com/cpu/psy312.htm>

Office Hours: MWF: 9:20-10:20; TT 12:30-1:00

Office: 5-207 Office Phone 909-869-4120 (If you are calling during my office hours and I do not answer, I have probably left the office for a moment. Try again in a few minutes ***Do not leave a message on campus voice mail***: If you need to leave a message, call the off campus number listed below and leave the message with my assistant or on the answering machine. The greeting message for my off campus office also gives information for contacting me through my answering service if you have an *real urgent* need to speak to me.)

Off Campus Phone: 909-399-0556

E-Mail Address: brjohnson@csupomona.edu

FAX: 909-860-6908

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Physical, social, emotional, and intellectual growth of adolescents. Emphasis on personality formation, social adjustments, and problems of self-identity. Cross-cultural aspects of adolescent development. 4 lecture-discussions. Prerequisites: PSY201 or PSY203.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: To increase your understanding of:

- A. What adolescence is and important psychological theories related to adolescence
- B. Biological, cognitive and social transitions that occur during adolescence
- C. The relationship of adolescents to their families, peers, and social institutions
- D. The issues of identity, autonomy, intimacy, and sexuality for adolescents
- E. Psychological problems associated with the adolescent period
- C. Cultural variables that impact the adolescence.

TEXTS: Steinberg, Laurence, Adolescence, Seventh Edition.

TESTS: Two **Mid-Terms** and a **Final Exam** will be given (**January 24, February 14, and Mar 16**) that will consist of multiple choice and brief essay questions. Each **Mid-Term** test and the final are worth 70 points each. The exams will cover the assigned reading, lecture materials, and class activities, including the films that will be used to illustrate and expand theories, concepts, and ideas covered in the reading and lectures. ***There will be no make up opportunities!***

PAPER: : A term paper, worth 100 points will be due **the last day of the lectures, June 1**. Your assignment is to watch one of the following films (they are available through Blockbuster, Hollywood Video, Fry's, Amazon.com and most large video rental stores) . Using concepts and theories that you have learned in this class, speculate on the protagonist's:

Write a four to five page (typed, double spaced) essay about the protagonist using the concepts and theories that you have learned in this class to explain or explore:

- (1) The manifestation of major issues of adolescence (identity, autonomy, achievement, intimacy) you see occurring with the protagonist.
- (2) The relationship the protagonist has with peers, parents, teachers (and other authority figures), siblings, and other significant people in the person's life.
- (3) Events and turnings points that you see that demonstrating the protagonist personal growth and change associated with the adolescence period. Describe and explore what you see as factors that may have delayed or prevented growth and change.
- (4) The difference in the protagonist between the beginning and the ending of the period of time that are covered during the course of the film.

In addition to your observations of the protagonist you can use the observations that other characters in the film make about the person.

The paper is to be 4 to 5 pages long, typed, doubled spaced. **Do not write a plot summary of the film: I know these films--- believe me, I know these films---, so I don't need to be told the story. Instead you can describe certain instants (i.e., scenes) and the protagonist's behavior, words, or reactions in these to illustrate a point.**

Use specific theories and or research to support your answers. See the class web site for more instructions and examples.

Movie	Protagonist
Dead Poet Society	Todd
The Mighty	Max
October Sky	Homer
Dirty Dancing	Frances "Baby"
Boyz of the Hood	Tre
Stand and Deliver	Angel
Bend It Like Beckham	Jesminder 'Jess'
Friday Night Lights	Boobie, Don, or Mike
Ordinary People	Conrad
East of Eden	Cal
About A Boy	Marcus
Karate Kid (Original)	Daniel
Mean Girls	Cady

More films will be added to this list, so periodically check the class website for these.

The term paper is worth 100 points and will be graded on a demonstrated understanding of the theory(ies) and/or research you discuss and a clear application of that theory/research to your discussion of the protagonist. This is an upper division class, and the paper is expected to reflect an appropriate level of grammatical and compositional mastery. The grade for this paper can be affected negatively by poor writing craftsmanship. **Turning in the term paper after the due date and time will result in a 25% penalty; the paper MUST be faxed to me by midnight June 9th to be graded)**

CLASS PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE: The lectures will expand upon the reading material and provide other important information not covered in the reading. Attendance for

each class meeting (except days of exams) will be taken by signing on a sign-in sheet. In addition to attendance, participation is important. **Participation can have an impact on your final grade.** In this class there is no such thing as a dumb question. The Roman statesman Cicero wrote that “I am not afraid to admit that I am ignorant of what I do not know.” And he was a philosopher and Senator! **50 attendance and participation points are possible.** If you attend all class meeting but do not participate (i.e., raise questions, make comments concerning the materials presented in class, or offer a point of view), the maximum number of points you will receive is 30. It is not the quantity but the quality of the participation that will be considered. This is an academic class, not group therapy. While sharing on how a subject presented applies to you can enrich the class process, you need not share any more than you feel comfortable disclosing in class. **PRIVACY** is to be respected by both the instructor and fellow students.

NAME PLATE: I would like to know you by name. Since there may be up to fifty people in the class, I need you to create a personal name plate to put on your desk so I will get to know who you are. I have had students use head bands in the past but that didn't go over too well. So, please write your name on a piece of paper and put it on the front of your desk until I get to know you by name. Be creative but also legible with lettering big enough that I can see it across the room (if you sit in the back). And if I mispronounce your name (or call you by the wrong name), correct me.

COURSE WEBSITE (www.gettingunstuck.com/cpu/psy312.htm.): The website contains a number of resources and messages from the instructor to the class concerning announcements, corrections, and any changes in the schedule, reading assignments, etc. From the website you can also download Adobe Acrobat PDF copies of the overheads that are used in the lectures. (You will need to have Adobe Acrobat 4.0 to download these and other documents available on the website. Information is provided for downloading Acrobat if the program is not already on your computer.) I attempt to put the overheads up no later than the night before class, but sometimes (but not often) that proves impossible. It is strongly recommend that you download these so you can have copies of the overheads in class on the days of the lectures.

EXTRA CREDIT: If you participate in a Psychology and Sociology Department sponsored experiment, you can earn 5 extra credit point. This extra credit will only be given if you sign up for an experiment using the Experimetrix system. You must do this by going on line (<http://experimetrix.com/csupomona>) to sign up for an experiment. You must be registered in the program to participate. If you are not already, go to the web site and click the “new user registration” link to register. To sign up for a study or experiment, click on the “Sign up for experiments” link on the experimetrix.com/csupomona homepage. When you sign up for an experiment, you must identify that you want the credit applied to this course. **After the experiment, you must also assign the credit to this course on the experimetrix web site. If you fail to assign a credit to the class, extra credit points will not be given.**

READING ASSIGNMENTS: The attached schedule lists the readings for each lecture. To better follow the lectures and to gain mastery of the subject of this course, it is **strongly** encourage that you complete the reading assignments *before* the lectures.

GRADING: To receive a passing grade for the course you must complete all requirements for this class (three (3) exams and the papers). If you fail to do so and have not received approval

for an incomplete grade contract, you will receive a grade of “F.” Assuming that you do complete all requirements, grades will be based on the following scale:

360-335	A	298-288	B-	251-241	D+
334-324	A-	287-277	C+	240-227	D
323-313	B+	276-263	C	226-216	D-
312-299	B	262--252	C-	<216	F

Your grade and the breakdown of your grade will be posted on the class web site after the final exam. These are usually available by the Sunday after final exam week.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: The school’s policy will be enforced in this class. The policy reads in part, “All forms of academic dishonesty at Cal Poly are a violation of University policy and will be considered a serious offense. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: [Plagiarism, Cheating During Exams, Use of Unauthorized Study Aids, and Falsifying any University Documents].” See the University Catalog for more details. Remember, plagiarism is passing off another’s work as your own. **Students often don’t realize that they have committed plagiarism when they fail to (1) denote with quotation marks or some other notation the cited material and (2) do not identify the source.**