San José State University  
College of Social Sciences/Psychology Department  
PSYC 112 (Psychology of Adolescence) Sections 02 & 03  

Fall 2010

Instructor: Dr. Mildred Alvarez  
Office Location: DMH 323  
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Email: mildred.alvarez@sjtu.edu. When contacting me by email, please write PSY 112 STUDENT on the subject line.  

Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays: 8:10-8:50A & 2:50-3:50P  

You are encouraged to see me during office hours or to contact me whenever a need arises. Please discuss with me any concerns you may have regarding our class as soon as possible (before the quiz, exam, etc.) & do not wait too long to see me.

Class Days/Time: Tuesdays & Thursdays 09:00-10:15AM (section 02)  
Tuesdays & Thursdays 1:30-2:45PM (section 03)  

Classroom: DMH 348 (section 02 & section 03)  
Prerequisites: PSYC 001 (General Psychology)  

Faculty Web Page
Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, lecture outlines, and review sheets can be found on my faculty web page at http://www.sjsu.edu/people/mildred.alvarez/courses/ I will announce in class when specific handouts are available on this website. The “lecture outlines” provided as handouts list broad issues to be discussed in more detail during class lectures. These short outlines merely provide you with a general organizational tool and you will need to fill in important details for which you will be responsible during lectures.
Course Description

**SJSU Course Catalog Description:** “Adolescent personality as the product of cultural and psychological factors, emphasizing normal behavior and development. **Prerequisite:** Psyc 001 (General Psychology).”

**Specific Course Description:** The purpose of this course is to provide information about a variety of important issues and possible challenges often faced during adolescence. There will be a few recurring themes throughout several portions of the course. One of the themes of the course (highlighted in the text) is the diversity of cultural practices and beliefs about adolescence. A second general theme is whether and how adolescence may serve as a “transitional” period between childhood and later development. Finally, a third general theme will involve a consideration of the importance of the adolescent years for the development of gender roles. The textbook and lectures will be the main source of information. The readings and lectures will sometimes coincide; however, **there will also be unique information from each source (i.e., required readings and lectures) for which you will be responsible.** It is expected that you will have completed assigned readings **before** each class meeting.

Course Goals and Learning Objectives

**Course Learning Objectives:**
- To identify and describe psychological theories and concepts relevant to cognitive, social, and emotional development during the adolescent years
- To have an appreciation for the historical and cultural factors that may affect societal perceptions of adolescence as a period of development
- To recognize and understand the potential impact of various developmental changes (e.g., biological, cognitive, social) on adolescents’ perceptions of themselves and their relationships with others

Required Textbook

  ISBN-10: 0-13-8144583

**NOTE:** Prentice-Hall Publishers offer a lower cost version of the text that is loose-leaf, 3-hole-punched. I ordered copies of the lower cost version through the University Spartan Bookstore.

Materials/Forms

You will need to purchase three (3) **T & E Form 0200** scantron forms. **Only a standard #2 pencil can be used on these forms.** Because there may not be a working pencil sharpener in the classroom, please bring additional sharpened pencils.
Classroom Protocol

Class Attendance: I do not regularly take class roll. However, you are responsible for all class content and your presence in class is highly encouraged. Exams and the quiz will consist of questions from your text, class lectures, and any other information (e.g., videos) presented in class. I sometimes lecture on material that is not included in the text and for which you are responsible. Also, you are responsible for required material from the textbook even if that material is not discussed in class. You are responsible for all information and announcements made in class whether you are present or not. When you are absent, you will need to make arrangements with a classmate regarding notes for missed lectures.

Finally, please note that you will need to be present to participate in a total of three (3) in-class group discussions and two (2) in-class reflection essays and that there will be NO make-ups on missed in-class group discussions – see the “Assignments & Grading Policy” section of the syllabus (description of “Reflection Essays” and “Group Discussion Participation & Short Reports”).

Class Courtesy: Out of respect for other members of the class, as well as to avoid unnecessary distractions, I ask that everyone remember to follow the guidelines listed below:

1. Be on time for your classes. Arriving late can cause a distraction. If you are running late or need to leave early on a regular (i.e., non-test) class day, please enter/leave the classroom quietly and unobtrusively. On quiz and exam days, it is especially important that you arrive on time.
2. Turn off cell phones for the time you are in class.
3. The use of a laptop is permitted so long as it is limited to class-related use – note taking. Please do not use your laptop for personal matters during class time.
4. Be sure to take care of bathroom needs or bring tissue (if you have a cold) on test days since, once you begin a quiz or exam, you must complete it before leaving the classroom.
5. Do not talk unnecessarily during lecture or when other students are asking questions. Unnecessary and inappropriate conversation during class can make it difficult for students to hear and follow class lectures and discussions.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding University policies and procedures about add/drops, grade forgiveness (formerly academic renewal), etc. Information on add/drops are available at http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-324.html. Information about late drop is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/ and search for Late Drop Policy. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.
Assignments and Grading Policy

Evaluation and Percentage of Grade from Course Requirements:

(1) **EXAMS = 55%**
You will be required to take 2 exams for a total of 55% of the course grade (Exam 1 = 30% and Exam 2 = 25%). Exam dates are indicated on the course schedule. Each exam will cover about one-half of the course material and will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions. Course materials consist of required readings, and information presented and discussed in class. The Final (Exam 2) will NOT be cumulative. Exams are closed book and notes are NOT allowed.

(2) **QUIZ = 20%**
You will be required to take 1 quiz for a total of 20% of the course grade. The quiz date is indicated on the course schedule. The quiz will consist of 25 multiple-choice questions. The Quiz is closed book and notes are NOT allowed.

(3) **REFLECTION ESSAYS = 15%**
You will be required to write 2 short “Reflection Essays” in class for a total of 15% of the course grade. Each essay will be worth 25 points for a possible maximum of 50 points for the 2 essays. The date of each in-class Reflection Essay is indicated on the course schedule. Each short essay will be about one-and-one-half (1½) to two (2) handwritten pages in length. Reflection essays will provide an opportunity for your critical and thoughtful reflection about a particular issue or aspect of adolescent development raised in class or your readings. On Essay dates, bring your book, class notes and blank, lined paper in good condition as well as a pen or pencil to answer the essay question. Writing instructions and guidelines will be posted on the course website at least one week before the first essay. Reflection Essays are open book and notes are allowed.

(4) **GROUP DISCUSSION PARTICIPATION & SHORT REPORTS = 10%**
You will be required to participate in 3 small group discussions during class throughout the semester. A brief oral and/or written report will be submitted at the end of each in-class group discussion. Each group discussion activity will be worth 16.5 points resulting in a total of 49.5 points (this will be rounded up to 50 points) for participation and activity (oral and/or written report) in the 3 group discussions during class. Be sure to always have blank paper (in good condition) and a pen or pencil when you come to class to participate in group discussion. There will be NO make-ups on missed in-class group discussion activities.

**Please Note:** There will be no extra credit assignments.
Points and Grade Scale: The maximum number of points for each requirement is 50. Each question on an Exam (50 questions per exam) is worth 1 point, and each question on the Quiz (25 questions on the quiz) is worth 2 points. The Reflection Essays are worth 50 points (each essay is worth 25 points). Each Reflection Essay will be graded as “excellent” (25 points); “very good” (22 points); “satisfactory” (19 points); or “unsatisfactory” (16 points). Participation in the 3 Group Discussions and activities are worth a total of 50 points (each discussion/activity is worth 16.5 points). Failure to do a course requirement will result in a score of 0 points for that missing requirement.

49-50 = A+  43-44 = B+  38-39 = C+  33-34 = D+  0-29 = F
47-48 = A    41-42 = B    36-37 = C    31-32 = D
45-46 = A-   40 = B-     35 = C-     30 = D-

Example of How to Calculate Your Course Grade: In calculating your course grade, you will need to take into account the points you have earned on each course requirement in terms of its percentage weight of the course grade. Below is an example of how to do this.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Requirement</th>
<th>Points Earned</th>
<th>Multiplied by Percent of Course Grade</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quiz:</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>x .20</td>
<td>8.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1:</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>x .30</td>
<td>11.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 2:</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>x .25</td>
<td>10.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ref. Essays (n=2)</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>x .15</td>
<td>6.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Discussions (n=3)</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>x .10</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL: 41.50 or (rounding up) = 42 = B

Sum all the scores to obtain a total score. To interpret your total score, use the grade scale shown above.

Make-up Policy: A make-up or extension on a course requirement will only be given under extraordinary and well-documented circumstances. Where such circumstances exist, it is your responsibility to notify me (by leaving me a voicemail or email message including your name and telephone number) as soon as possible and no later than one (1) week after the scheduled exam/quiz date. APPROPRIATE WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION (e.g., a physician’s note) WILL BE REQUIRED FOR A MAKE-UP TO RECEIVE THE FULL MAKE-UP CREDIT. If you are not able to obtain such documentation and you have a serious and extenuating circumstance that has prevented you from fulfilling a requirement as scheduled, notify me as soon as possible. Depending on the circumstances, you may be allowed a make-up. However, a make-up without appropriate written documentation will result in partial credit (i.e., points will be deducted). If you have questions about this policy, see me.

University Policies

Academic Honesty: To assure fairness to all students and to protect academic integrity, the highest ethical standards will be maintained in this course. Academic dishonesty (e.g.,
cheating, allowing others to cheat from you, plagiarism) will not be tolerated. If you are found to engage in an act of academic dishonesty, it will result in negative consequences on the course requirement in question. In addition, acts of academic dishonesty will be reported. You are responsible for understanding and following the University Academic Integrity Policy available in the SJSU Catalog and on the web at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf.

This Policy requires that you be honest in all your academic course work.

About Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is essential to the mission of SJSU. As such, students are expected to perform their own work (except when collaboration is expressly permitted by the course instructor). Students are not permitted to use old tests, quizzes when preparing for exams, nor may they consult with students who have already taken the exam. Academic integrity ensures that all students are fairly graded. Violations to the Academic Integrity Policy undermine the educational process. It also demonstrates a lack of respect for oneself, fellow students and the course instructor and can ruin the University’s reputation and the value of the degrees it offers. We all share the obligation to maintain an environment that practices academic integrity. Violation of the Academic Integrity Policy is a serious matter and violators risk course failure and being reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development for disciplinary action which could result in suspension or expulsion from the University. The website for Student Conduct and Ethical Development is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html.

From a portion of the SJSU policy on Cheating: “1.1 CHEATING: At SJSU, cheating is the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work through the use of any dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means. Cheating at SJSU includes but is not limited to: 1.1.1 Copying, in part or in whole, from another’s test or other evaluation instrument; 1.1.2 Submitting work previously graded in another course unless this has been approved by the course instructor or by departmental policy; 1.1.3 Submitting work simultaneously presented in two courses, unless this has been approved by both course instructors or department policies; 1.1.6 Sitting for an examination by a surrogate, or as a surrogate; 1.1.7 any other act committed by a student in the course of his or her academic work which defrauds or misrepresents, including aiding or abetting in any of the actions defined above.”

From a portion of the SJSU policy on Plagiarism: “1.2 PLAGIARISM: At SJSU, plagiarism is the act of representing the work of another as one’s own (without giving appropriate credit) regardless of how that work was obtained, and submitting it to fulfill academic requirements. Plagiarism at SJSU includes but is not limited to: 1.2.1 the act of incorporating the ideas, words, sentences, paragraphs, or parts thereof, or the specific substance of another’s work, without giving appropriate credit, and representing the product as one’s own work.”

For your information, the following URL will take you to the SJSU library’s tutorial page: http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/tutorial/index.html. See “plagiarism” for more information.
Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the DRC (Disability Resource Center) to establish a record of their disability.

Learning Assistance Resource Center

The Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) is located in Room 600 in the Student Services Center. It is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to motivate them to become self-directed learners. The center provides support services, such as skills assessment, individual or group tutorials, subject advising, learning assistance, summer academic preparation and basic skills development. The LARC website is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. It is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Our writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. The Writing Center website is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/.

Peer Mentor Center

The Peer Mentor Center is located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall in the Academic Success Center. The Peer Mentor Center is staffed with Peer Mentors who excel in helping students manage university life, tackling problems that range from academic challenges to interpersonal struggles. On the road to graduation, Peer Mentors are navigators, offering “roadside assistance” to peers who feel a bit lost or simply need help mapping out the locations of campus resources. Peer Mentor services are free and available on a drop–in basis, no reservation required. The Peer Mentor Center website is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/muse/peermentor/.
PSYC 112 (Psychology of Adolescence) Fall 2010
Course Schedule

The following schedule is approximate. Some topics may take a little more (or less) time to cover than anticipated, so the planned topics for a given week may not always be completed by the expected date; however, I do plan to follow the order of the topics as they are listed. We will work to stay on schedule. I expect to keep to scheduled dates of the quiz/exams, but it is possible that specific content to be included on the quiz/exams may need to be adjusted. The date of the final exam will not change and will remain as scheduled. If there are any changes to the specific content of the quiz/exams it will be announced in class. Also, I expect to keep to the scheduled date for the in-class reflection essays. Finally, although I anticipate following the schedule as provided below, the planned course schedule is tentative and may need to be changed with fair notice. It is your responsibility to be aware of where we are in the readings, class lectures, and announcements.

You will need to bring a T & E Form 0200 & #2 pencils for the quiz and exams. Bring a blank form to class on the test day. You will receive instructions about how to complete specific parts of the form on the test day. Scantron forms that are in poor condition may result in errors in scoring; therefore, do not fold, bend, or tear scantron forms and keep them free of stains and stray marks.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings (Arnett Text), Test Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8/26</td>
<td>Course Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>8/31 &amp; 9/2</td>
<td>Historical &amp; Theoretical Issues</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Chap. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>9/7 &amp; 9/9</td>
<td>Biological &amp; Pubertal Development</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Chap. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>9/14 &amp; 9/16</td>
<td>Cognitive &amp; Social-Cognitive Development</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Chap. 3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9/14: In-Class Reflection Essay # 1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>9/21 &amp; 9/23</td>
<td>Cognitive &amp; Social-Cognitive Development (cont.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>9/28 &amp; 9/30</td>
<td>Cultural Beliefs &amp; Gender Socialization</td>
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<td>• Chaps. 4 &amp; 5</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9/28: QUIZ (estimated on chapters 1 &amp; 2 and related lectures – specific content of the Quiz will be confirmed in class before the quiz date).</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>10/5 &amp; 10/7</td>
<td>Development of the Self</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Chap. 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topics, Readings (Arnett Text), Test Dates</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 8    | 10/12 & 10/14 | Parent-Adolescent Relations  
• Chap. 7 |
| 9    | 10/19 & 10/21 | Parent-Adolescent Relations (cont.) |
| 10   | 10/26 & 10/28 | 10/26: EXAM 1 (estimated on chapters 1 – 6 and related lectures. Specific content of Exam 1 will be confirmed in class before the exam date).  
10/28: In-Class Reflection Essay # 2 |
| 11   | 11/2 & 11/4 | Friendships & Peer Relations  
• Chap. 8 |
| 12   | 11/9 | Friendships & Peer Relations (cont.) |
| 13   | 11/16 & 11/18 | Love & Sexuality  
• Chap. 9 |
| 14   | 11/23 | The Changing Environment of the Adolescent (School, Work, and Media)  
• Chaps. 10, 11, & 12  
11/25: NO CLASS (THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY) |
| 15   | 11/30 & 12/2 | The Changing Environment, etc. (cont.) |
| 16   | 12/7 & 12/9 | Problems & Resilience (Overview)  
• Chap. 13 |
| Final Exam | See your class section number for the date, time, and location of your final exam | **EXAM 2 (Final Exam)**  
Exam 2 is estimated to be on chapters 7 – 13 & related lectures. I estimate that the majority of questions on Exam 2 will focus on content from chapters 7 – 9 & related lectures and that relatively fewer questions will come from chapters 10 – 13. The specific content of Exam 2 will be confirmed in class before the exam date.  
• **Section 02** (morning class) Final Exam:  
Monday, Dec. 13th – 07:45-9:30am in DMH 348  
• **Section 03** (afternoon class) Final Exam:  
Monday, Dec. 13th – 12:15-2:00pm in DMH 348  
**Note:** You must take the Final Exam with your class section. This day and time are determined by the University. |