PSY 422/422G Adolescent Psychology –Independent Learning
E-mail format

(Please note that this course is available in the US mail and Blackboard format. Please email the instructor if you wish to see the syllabus for either of these formats.)

Your Instructor
Instructor: Dr. Shana Pack, PhD.
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Phone : 270-659-6925
Office : 206 Glasgow
Office hours : by appointment only in Glasgow
E-mail is the best way to contact me. I will be glad to call you if you e-mail me and request me to do so.

Course Description
A general course in developmental psychology covering the entire lifespan. Included are a description of growth stages, theories of development, and research methods of development. 3 credit hours

Course Objectives
This course is designed to help students achieve the following objectives:

- To learn about the field of adolescent psychology, including current research findings and theories (achieved through reading and learning the course material and assessed through Exams)
- To become disciplined students and life-long learners (achieved by students by responsibly keeping up with course requirements and by engaging in the course material)
- To become critical thinkers (achieved through Exams and Critical Thinking Papers)
- To learn more about oneself (achieved through reading and learning the course material, and Exams)
- To improve communication skills, including computer skills (achieved through Critical Thinking Papers and using Blackboard)

Required Materials
1) Adolescence 12th edition, by John W. Santrock
2) Computer and Internet access
Course Notes
Course notes for each chapter will be provided to you on a CD. Course notes correspond to each chapter, and have explain material that is a bit more difficult or adds some additional material not found in your text. The course notes do NOT repeat material found in your text. The text book will carry the weight of the material in class, and you are expected to read and study it on your own. Of course, I am available through email to answer your questions.

Course Requirements

1) Exams
You are required to take 2 proctored exams, a midterm and a final. You must schedule these yourself by contacting the Independent Learning Office. Please see this web page for more information: http://www.wku.edu/il/ Click the Student Tools on the left side of the screen. Then Click Exams. You must pass the Midterm and the Final in order to pass the class. A passing grade is 60% or better. You may have one sheet of notes when taking exams. A sheet is 8 ½ X 11 inches, and can have material on both sides. If you prefer, you can use “two fronts” instead of a front and back. You must turn these notes in to your proctor after the exam.

Exams will consist of approximately 110 multiple choice questions, each worth 1.5 points. The exam will be counted out of a possible 150 points, but you can score more than 150 points. In other words, each test will have at least 15 bonus points available. You should expect most of the questions to be “application.” That is, most questions will have an example of a concept, and ask you to identify the example (in contrast to having you identify a definition.) Note that a passing grade of 60% requires that you earn at least 90 points out of 150 on each exam.

To help you prepare for exams, you are encouraged to use the online site provided by your text book publisher. Go to http://www.mhhe.com/santrocka12 to take practice quizzes, etc.

2) Critical Thinking papers
You will have 4 written assignments due throughout the course. Each of the assignments involves writing a critical thinking paper regarding your selection of course material from Chapters 1-3 (for Paper 1), Chapters 4-6 (for Paper 2), Chapters 7-9 (for Paper 3), and Chapters 10-13 (for Paper 4). Critical thinking involves evaluating information—explaining what you perceive to be its strengths and weaknesses. Your rationale for what you perceive to be strengths and weaknesses are crucial. Good critical thinking is based on unbiased thinking, unbiased evidence and logic. The following are often used as guidelines for critical thinking:

Critical thinkers...
1. are flexible--they can tolerate ambiguity and uncertainty.
2. identify inherent biases and assumptions.
3. maintain an air of skepticism.
4. separate facts from opinions.
5. don't oversimplify.
6. use logical inference processes.
7. examine available evidence before drawing conclusions.


So…what am I looking for in a “critical thinking” paper? First of all, you need to choose a topic from the course that lends itself well to critical thinking. Topics that are “controversial” or have more than one side are always good selections. Theories also make for good topics because they always have strengths and weaknesses. After you have identified a topic (you can choose more than one in order to get the paper length you need), I would suggest that you then identify what you think are the pros and cons, or various perspectives of your topic. And then you want to evaluate these in a rational, unbiased way. For example, one of the topics covered in Chapter 3 is intelligence and intelligence testing. These topics have been controversial both within and outside of psychology for decades. You might identify what you perceive to be the various viewpoints of testing--what are some positive aspects, some negative aspects? Are there typically opinions or facts associated with these aspects? Make sure you logically support your ideas. VERY IMPORTANTLY, THESE PAPERS MUST REFLECT YOUR OWN THOUGHTS. DO NOT DO ANY OUTSIDE RESEARCH FOR THESE PAPERS. YOU MAY USE YOUR TEXT BOOK AND YOU MAY USE INFORMATION THAT YOU ALREADY HAVE (SUCH AS THAT LEARNED IN ANOTHER COURSE OR OTHER CREDIBLE MEANS). But I do not want you to write a research paper. You may informally identify where information comes from (e.g., “according to the text…” or “I learned in my Intro to Psychology class last semester that…”). Any papers that are basically researched papers will receive a grade of 0.

Papers must be well written, well organized, and 1,500-2,000 words long (get a word count under your Tools menu in your word processing program, or if you
are using Microsoft Vista, you can get a word count simply by looking at the bottom left corner of your screen).

Papers will be graded according to the following rubric:

- The paper covers the assigned material and correctly utilizes terms, theories, and or research findings: 10 points
- The paper shows good critical thinking skills, such as using logic to justify ideas, unbiased thinking, tolerance for ambiguity, avoidance of generalizations, etc.: 30 points
- The entry is well organized and well written. It is organized by topic into paragraphs using topic sentences and transitions, and it has no grammar or spelling errors: 10 points

Each paper is worth 50 points, for a total of 200 points all four papers.

Turning in Critical Thinking Papers

1. Send your assignments to your instructor at shana.pack@wku.edu and a copy (cc:) to il@wku.edu. They will not be counted if sent directly to the instructor only.

2. **Send only one file attachment at a time.** Be sure to use PSY422, the assignment numbers, and your name in the subject line of your email. (e.g., JohnSmithPSY422Paper1)

3. Files must be in Microsoft Word or Rich Text Format form only, and when you save your document be sure to name it as your name, course and lesson number. (e.g. JohnSmithPSY422Paper1.doc)

4. **You may not submit more than four assignments per week.** Pace yourself and allow your instructor to give you feedback on your assignments.

5. Your final examination must be taken at a proctored site, a University or Community College. When you have completed all of the assignments, fill out and return the exam form to Independent Learning. You can also access our online examination request form at [http://www.wku.edu/il/](http://www.wku.edu/il/), by clicking on:
   - Student tools
   - Exams

6. Check our web site at [http://www.wku.edu/il](http://www.wku.edu/il) for further information. If you have any questions about how this program works, write to us at il@wku.edu or call us at (270) 745-4158.

Students With Disabilities
Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments, and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services (OFSDS), Downing University Center, Room A200. The OFSDS telephone number is (270) 745-5004 V/(270) 745-3030/TDD. Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

**Final Grades**
To summarize, your grades will be determined by

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking Papers (4 papers worth 50 points each)</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>500</td>
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Final grade will be assigned as follows:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>TOTAL POINTS EARNED</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>LETTER GRADE ASSIGNED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>450 or more</td>
<td>90 or above</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>400.0 – 449.9</td>
<td>80 – 89.9</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>350.0 – 399.9</td>
<td>70-79.9</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>300.0 -- 349.9</td>
<td>60-69.9</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>349.8 and below</td>
<td>59.9 and below</td>
<td>F</td>
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**COURSE SCHEDULE**
Since this is an Independent Learning Class, I do not have due dates for Exams or Assignments. What I have included below is more of a checklist that you can complete at your own pace.

Also, online exercises and/or Study Guide exercises are recommended, but not required. To access the online exercises, go to [http://www.mhhe.com/santrocka12/](http://www.mhhe.com/santrocka12/).

Read Chapter 1
Complete online exercises for Ch. 1
Read Chapter 2
Complete online exercises for Ch. 2
Read Chapter 3
Complete online exercises for Ch. 3
Complete and submit Critical Thinking Paper #1 (Chapters 1-3)
Take optional Practice Quiz (click the yellow Exams link in Blackboard to access the quiz.)
Read Chapter 4
Complete online exercises for Ch. 4
Read Chapter 5
Complete online exercises for Ch. 5
Read Chapter 6
Complete online exercises for Ch. 6
Complete and submit Critical Thinking Paper #2 (Chapters 4-6)
SCHEDULE MIDTERM EXAM (You must have submitted Critical Thinking Papers #1 and #2 before taking the Midterm.)
Read Chapter 7
Complete Study online exercises for Ch. 7
TAKE MIDTERM (COVERS CHAPTERS 1 – 7) Appendix, pp. 48-51 is not covered on the exam
Read Chapter 8
Complete online exercises for Ch. 8
Read Chapter 9
Complete Study Guide Exercises and/or online exercises for Ch. 9
Complete and submit Critical Thinking #3 (Chapters 7-9)
Read Chapter 10
Complete online exercises for Ch. 10
Read Chapter 11
Complete online exercises for Ch. 11
Read Chapter 12
Complete online exercises for Ch. 12
SCHEDULE FINAL EXAM (You must have submitted Critical Thinking Papers #3 and #4, and passed the Midterm before taking the Final.)
Read Chapter 13
Complete online exercises for Ch. 13
Complete and submit Critical Thinking #4 (Chapters 10-14)
TAKE FINAL EXAM (Covers Chapters 8-13)