

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**PCP 549 Adolescent Development in the Family**

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**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The course will provide an overview of adolescent social and psychological development and parent-adolescent relationships. Topics will include parenting styles, parent-adolescent communication, the role of parents or significant adults in adolescent ego development and self-esteem, adolescent's orientation to parents and peers, adolescent problem behavior, and strengthening parent-adolescent relationships.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Upon the completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Identify basic stages of adolescent development within the domains of physical, emotional, cognitive, social and spiritual development.
2. Investigate critical youth problems; suicide, pregnancy, alcohol abuse, drug use and smoking.
3. Become conversant about adolescent culture and subcultural currents.
4. Understand the main features of doing therapy with an adolescent clients.
5. Conceptualize an adolescent's presenting problem in the context of her/his family system.
6. View the teen's issues with special focus on their various spiritual contexts (personally, in the family and in the local church).

**TEXTBOOKS**

Santrock, J. W. (2001). *Adolescence*. (8<sup>th</sup> ed.). Boston: McGraw Hill.

Thomas. R.M. (1990). *Counseling and life span development*. Newbury Park: Sage Publication.

### **RECOMMENDED READINGS**

Parrott III, L. (1993). Helping the struggling adolescent. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing Company.

### **BASIC OUTLINE and READING SCHEDULE**

This document will be distributed in class.

### **METHODOLOGY**

This course will be conducted as a graduate seminar with students responsible for learning and independent research. The professor will lecture and provide additional supplementary material.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**1. Attend all class meetings and read all assigned materials.** Attendance will be graded according to the guidelines in the student handbook.

**2. 3, 10-page, take-home essay examinations** will be given.

3 Essay examinations: Choose three of the following:

- 1) What is the effect of attachment issues on an adolescent's emotional development?
- 2) Select one of the following youth problems; suicide, pregnancy, alcohol abuse, drug use and smoking (or others not listed). Describe a current method of treatment or intervention for one of the above youth problems.
- 3) Select and describe a variant form of adolescent culture and subcultural.
- 4) Compare and contrast the nature of adolescent relationships with family of origin and peer group.

- 5) 6) Create 4 case studies from adolescents that you know of which illustrate James Marcia's paths to identity formation. This project counts, as two essays therefore it will receive the same grade twice.
- 7) Compare and contrast the social development issue variations for an adolescent girl struggling with obesity and one with anorexia nervosa.

**3. Qualitative research project.** Select a research partner.

Interview and observation

- (1) Select a topic that focuses on an aspect of adolescent life, i.e. Drug use, sexuality, spirituality, teen pregnancy etc.
- (2) Develop an interview guide comprised of 12 or more questions. The questions are designed to investigate your topic and ideas about how the students might respond will determine the nature of your questions.
- (3) Ask a small group of adolescents (3-4) to act as your interviewees. These students cannot be relatives or friends. They need to be a group of teens that you can interview "cold". You will need to meet with them one time with both of the team members present, asking questions and recording observations.
- (4) Interview the adolescent using the interview guide. You may wish to avail yourself of the supervision room video recording equipment.
- (5) Both members of the team write-up the results of their observations and research on the findings from your interview and observation research

**Due dates for all assignments:**

1. Essay examination, pick one, due **January 17, by class time.**
2. Essay examination, pick one, due **February 21, by 4 p.m.** (I will be at Valley Forge Christian College teaching a module class, therefore since there is no class on this date, papers will be **due by 4 p.m.** before the faculty secretary goes home.
3. Essay examination, pick one, due **March 21, by class time.**
4. Interview/observation write-up due **April 11, by class time.**

**GRADING PROCEDURES**

Each assignment will be given a letter grade. The grades will be averaged together. Grades will be assigned based upon the seminary guidelines provided in a handout.

3 take-home examinations	25% each	or	75%
1 interview/observation research project	25%		25%
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			100%

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Bukstein, O. G. (1995). Adolescent substance abuse : Assessment, prevention, and treatment. New York: J. Wiley.

Carnegie Council on Adolescent Development. Task Force on Education of Young Adolescents. (1989). Turning points : Preparing American youth for the 21st century : the report of the Task Force on Education of Young Adolescents. Washington, D.C.: Carnegie Council of Adolescent Development.

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Georgiou, S. N. (1990). Adolescent career development within the Greek Cypriot family context.

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### SPECIFIC DATA

Prepared by James M. Harris III, Ph.D. (cand.) November 2000