I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: PSYC 229 Adolescent Psychology
B. Date of Revised Proposal: January 26, 2004
C. Sponsoring Department: Humanities, Social Sciences and Education
D. Semester Credit Hours: 3.0
E. Weekly Contact Hours: Lecture 3.0
F. Prerequisites: Introduction to Psychology
G. Laboratory Fees: none

II. Catalog Description

Prerequisite: Introduction to Psychology
Adolescent psychology focuses on the adolescent (ages 10-20) in contemporary society, with an emphasis on examining the wide range of normal adolescent development in light of the changes experienced during the transition from childhood to adulthood. Topics include, but are not limited to, identity, autonomy, intimacy, sexuality, family, peer relationships, and work and leisure.

III. Statement of Course Need

This course is a standard psychology elective. The immediate impetus for its development was to help our students transfer with the recommended courses needed for an education degree.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

A. Adolescent Psychology is a:
   - Free elective
   - Social Science elective
   - General Education elective
   - Required or recommended course for the elementary/secondary education degree, depending on the option chosen
B. Adolescent psychology is a standard psychology elective. It should transfer to colleges that have adolescent psychology as a 200-level course. Colleges, at their discretion, may grant non-specific transfer credit.

V. Outline of Course Content

A. The Fundamental Changes of Adolescence: Biological, Cognitive, Social
B. The Contexts of Adolescence: Families, Peer Groups, Schools, Work and Leisure
VI. Educational Goals and Learning Outcomes

A. Goals:
   1. The student will demonstrate:
      a) an appreciation for the influence of context when examining the many forces that work for and against optimal human functioning during adolescence (G.E. 1,4)
      b) an understanding of the normal developmental patterns experienced by adolescents (G.E. 1,4,6)

B. Outcomes:
   1. The student will
      a) describe how adolescent development is informed by knowledge in areas outside of psychology (G.E. 4)
      b) analyze the connections between theory and adolescent experience (G.E. 1)
      c) discuss issues effectively, conveying both understanding and openness toward another point of view (G.E. 2)
      d) identify and evaluate ethical arguments relating to adolescence (G.E. 5)

VII. Modes of Teaching and Learning

The following formats, modes, and methods for teaching and learning are appropriate for this course:

- Lecture/discussion
- Small-group work
- Guest speakers
- Student collaboration
- Student oral presentations

VIII. Papers, Examinations, and other Assessment Instruments

The following assessment methods will be used:

- Essay exams
- Multiple-choice exams
- Case study paper

IX. Grade Determinants

Typically, students will take three exams, each covering 1/3 of the semester’s work, which may be a combination of multiple-choice and take-home essays (approximately 4-5 pages).

A final paper (approximately 6-8 pages), in which students compose their own fictional/non-fictional narrative and then analyze it using relevant course theories and concepts, may be used to provide a 5th exam grade.
X. Texts and Materials

The following (or similar) course materials will be used:


XI. Resources

No additional resources are required.