

**University of Arkansas - Fort Smith**  
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**Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649**  
**479-788-7000**

## **General Syllabus**

### **PSYC 4243 Adolescent Psychology**

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite: PSYC 2963 Developmental Psychology: A Life Span, PSYC 2613 Research Methods in Psychology, and three hours upper-level psychology courses or consent of department head

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

#### **I. Course Information**

##### **A. Catalog Description**

Theories of psychological development, pathology, and the normal and abnormal views of the adolescence stage are studied. Includes the most researched stages of adolescent behavior and personality, issues of adolescent brain development and criteria for the diagnosis of maladjustment and mental disorders.

##### **B. Additional Information**

This course is an elective. Course content of PSYC 4243 Adolescent Psychology will be advantageous for the PSYC major and for students who have long-term goals of entering the helping professions or pursuing graduate degrees for such career choices and those in K-12 education. This course will help meet goals for long-term planning within the department to ultimately track students into clinical psychology and/or counseling psychology, as well as social work careers.

#### **II. Student Learning Outcomes**

##### **A. Subject Matter**

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

1. Understand and apply terms relevant to theories concerning adolescent behavior
2. Apply and critically assess developmental theory relevant to case study scenarios and data from behavioral databases.

3. Evaluate statistical software and other relevant assessment media as tools for learning and analyses of adolescent behavior.
4. Critically assess relevant theories of both the normal and abnormal views of adolescence as a stage in human life
5. Assess the pathology of the adolescent stage of developmental.

#### **B. University Learning Outcomes**

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

##### **Ethical Decision Making**

Students will recognize and analyze ethical dilemmas.

##### **Communication Skills (written and oral)**

Students will communicate effectively with a variety of audiences in any setting.

##### **Analytical Skills**

##### **Critical Thinking Skills**

Students will use critical thinking skills to draw conclusions and solve problems

##### **Global and Cultural Perspectives**

Students will reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own.

### **III. Major Course Topics**

- A. Erik Erikson
- B. Pathographic Identity Confusion
- C. Adolescent Psychological Development Theories
- D. Conduct Disorder
- E. Oppositional Defiant Disorder
- F. Attachment Disorder
- G. Autism
- H. Pervasive Developmental Disorder
- I. Psychosocial Adolescence