

PSYC 203: ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT

Instructor: Dr. Lynn Shelley
Lshelley@westfield.ma.edu

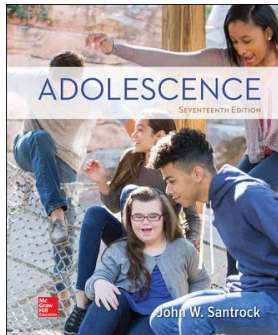
CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

PSYC 203 – ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT: Focuses on the scientific study of the biological, cognitive, social and emotional changes that occur during adolescence, and how development is impacted by sociocultural contexts. This includes the examination of topics such as puberty, identity formation, self-management, sexuality, family relationships, peer relationships, moral development and decision-making. This course will also discuss contemporary challenges facing adolescents. The objective is to deepen students' understanding of adolescence as a developmental period.

Prerequisites: PSYC 0101.

A NOTE FROM DR. SHELLEY:

We have all survived adolescence, which means you have rich experience that you will be able to draw upon, as well as thoughts about how and why adolescence proceeds as it does. But this class is not all common sense, we will explore the science of adolescent development. The objective is to deepen your respect for adolescents, and the families, educators and communities that nurture them. In addition, I would like to provide you with a broad-based knowledge of the theories and issues of adolescent development: its roots and new directions.



For this class, you need the book, *Adolescence*, 17th edition (2019) by John Santrock (older editions are fine too). We begin using the book immediately. You will read the text, watch and listen to supplemental materials, work in a small group, and participate in discussions -- this requires motivation, independence, and TIME. In the fall or spring semester, this class covers 1 chapter a week, but for a summer session class we complete about 2 and a half chapters a week. The content does not change when you take a class in the summer -- what changes is how much time you have to complete the work.

Both the syllabus, and PLATO class are clearly organized. Each week there will be 2 days when assignments will be due. There will be a quiz on each chapter, class discussions, and you will work on a team of your classmates which will meet about once a week. This can be done at any time the team decides, as long as your team completes Check-Ins and discussions on time. This is a great way to meet people “live” in an online class.

This class is a lot of fun, and really interesting, but it does require a commitment to work. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions.