

**Common Course Outline**  
**PSYC 219**  
**Adolescent Psychology**  
**3 Credits**

**Community College of Baltimore County**

**Description**

**PSYC 219 – Adolescent Psychology** focuses on the scientific study of biological, psychological, cognitive, emotional development, personality, and social changes that occur during adolescence. The course also examines the effects of heredity and culture, major theories, moral development, gender-role issues, sexuality, and family relationship matters.

**3 Credits**

**Prerequisite:** PSYC 101

**Overall Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. critically analyze major theories which attempt to explain adolescent behavior and participate in analytical discussions of various topics found in adolescent psychology;
2. find, evaluate, use, and cite academic resources pertaining to adolescent psychology;
3. demonstrate an understanding of the effects of biological, social, and cognitive development on adolescent behavior;
4. describe the impact of an individual's unique culture on adolescent development;
5. define social, biological, and cognitive factors influencing interpersonal attraction, sexual behavior, and gender in adolescents;
6. communicate the impact of social setting and family structure on development during adolescence;
7. evaluate and describe how self-understanding and understanding of others, in addition to identity, emotion, and personality development, relate to the well-being of adolescents;
8. describe the importance of achievement, work, and careers in adolescent and emerging adulthood development;
9. discuss the moral development of adolescents and emerging adults and the relevance of racism, sexism, and other forms of prejudice on adolescent development; and
10. communicate an understanding of adolescent and emerging adult interrelation as it pertains to problems and prevention intervention.

**Major Topics**

- I. Adolescent development:
  - A. Historical perspectives
  - B. The role of diverse multicultural, international, and global perspectives

- C. Research methods and adolescent psychology
- II. Puberty, sexual maturation, physical growth, and health
- III. Cognitive growth and development
- IV. Adolescent self-concept, identity, emotion, and personality
- V. Cultural diversity, gender, sexuality, romantic relationships, and life styles in adolescents
- VI. Development of moral judgement, values, beliefs, spirituality, and religion
- VII. Adolescents in their family and culture
- VIII. Schools, academic transitioning, and the social contexts of educational systems on adolescents
- IX. Importance of achievement, work, and careers in adolescence
- X. Adolescent and emerging adulthood problems

### **Course Requirements**

Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

#### **Grading/exams**

- A minimum of three exams/assessments
- A minimum of three assignments/assessments that provide opportunities for students to practice course material before exams (e.g., quizzes, discussion postings, graded chapter assessments, etc.)
- A written critical thinking assignment worth a minimum of 10% of the total course grade on a topic in Adolescent Psychology. The written paper will be based on either of the following sources: psychological research articles found in print or electronic formats, film, television, and/or media, or a service learning experience

Written Assignments: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources.

#### **Other Course Information**

This course is a program elective in the Psychology area of concentration for the Humanities and Social Sciences degree. This course may be offered as an honors section.