

## **HDPS 351-0: Transition to Adulthood Fall 2009**

Tuesdays 11:00 AM - 1:50 PM ANNENBERG G01

Instructor: Dr. Leah Doane

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Office Hours: MW 1:30-2:30pm and by appt. in Annenberg 306

This course examines emerging adulthood, a time when youth are no longer adolescents, but not quite adults. This transition into early adulthood is a period of great change for youth as they navigate shifts in their interpersonal, familial, educational, and economic domains of life. Most would agree that this “in-between” stage is a result of several historical and political movements such as the industrialization of Western societies, the prolonging of education, and the delaying of marriage and parenthood. In this course students will tackle these issues from a multidisciplinary perspective, drawing from psychological, sociological, economic and developmental theory and empirical research. Students will be challenged to understand the historical and social climate and pressures that perpetuate this “delaying of adulthood” while also considering the policy implications of promoting the success of this new age group. They will be required to formulate their own question about the transitions to adulthood and design a research proposal where they will explore this question.

### **Course Objectives:**

- Introduce students to life course research by highlighting the importance of the person-process-context-time framework
- Help students to draw connections from social, emotional, cognitive and psychobiological theories, connecting what we know about infancy, childhood and adolescence with new evidence regarding the transition to adulthood
- Explain the cultural phenomena that led up to an identification of a period called “emerging adulthood”
- Expose students to empirical literature on critical tasks of transitioning into adulthood across varying populations
- Provide students with an overview of public policies and intervention programs affecting emerging adults
- Challenge students to design a research question and project that addresses an area of research that they would like to explore regarding the emerging adult experience

### **Assignments and Requirements:**

- Attendance is required! Attendance and Participation (20%)
- Short Reflection Papers (4) due on: Friday September 25, Friday October 9, Friday October 30, Friday February 27 (10%)
- Discussion Leading: Each student will lead a discussion of the readings once during the quarter (5%)
- Midterm: In class on October 20 (20%)
- Final: Research Proposal (15 pages) due Friday December 5 (40%)
- Presentation on Final Research Proposal Tuesday December 2 (5%)

### **Texts:**

- Arnett, J.J. (2004). *The Winding Road from the Late Teens through the Twenties*. New York, New York: Oxford University Press.
- Settersten, R. A., Jr., Furstenberg, F. F., Jr., & Rumbaut, R. G. (Eds.) (2005). *On the frontier of adulthood: Theory, research, and public policy*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Course packet to include all other readings.
- **R** indicates required, **O** indicated optional

**Format:**

We will meet on Tuesdays from 11:00am-1:50pm in Annenberg G01. The first part of class will be lecture, and the second half will include student and instructor lead discussions as well as group work.

**Weekly Syllabus**

**Introduction and Clips on Emerging Adulthood (21 up)**

Tuesday September 22:

Arnett, J. J. (2000). Emerging adulthood: A theory of development from the late teens through the twenties. *American Psychologist*, 55, 469-480. **R**

Arnett, J.J. (2007). The scientific study of adolescence and emerging adulthood. *Adolescence and Emerging Adulthood: A Cultural Approach* (Chapter 1, pg.s 18-26). New Jersey: Pearson Prentice Hall. **R**

Eccles, J., Templeton, J., Barber, B., & Stone, M., (2003). Adolescence and emerging adulthood: The critical passageways to adulthood. In M. H. Bornstein, L. Davidson, C. L. M. Keyes, & K. Moore (Eds.) *Well-being: Positive development across the life course* (pp.383-406). Mahweh, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum. **O**

Côté, J. E. (2000). The science of adulthood: How do I know when I am grown up? Who's going to tell me? In *Arrested Adulthood: The Changing Nature of Maturity and Identity* (Chapter 2, pp. 41-79). New York: New York University Press. **R**

Jekielek, S., & Brown, B. (2005, May). The transition to adulthood: Characteristics of young adults ages 18-24 in America. **R**

**Theories of Development: Connections for the Transition to Adulthood**

Tuesday September 29:

Furstenberg, F. F., Jr., Settersten, R. A., Jr., & Rumbaut. R. (2005). On the frontier of adulthood: Emerging themes and new directions. In R. A. Settersten, Jr. et al. (Eds.), *On the frontier of adulthood: Theory, research, and public policy* (Ch. 1, pp.3-28). Chicago: University of Chicago Press. **R**

Shonkoff, J. and Phillips, D. (2000). Rethinking nature and nurture. In National Research Council, J. P. Shonkoff, & D. Phillips (Ed.s). *From neurons to neighborhoods: The science of early childhood development*. National Academy Press: Washington D.C. **R**

Scarr, S. & McCartney, K. (1983). How people make their own environments: A theory of genotype – environment effects. *Child Development*, 54, 424-435. **R**

Bronfenbrenner, U. (1986). Ecology of the family as a context for human development: Research perspectives. *Developmental Psychology*, 22(6), 723-742. **R**

## **Theories of Development II: The Life Course Perspective**

Tuesday October 6:

Elder, G. (1998). The life course as developmental theory. *Child Development*, 69, 1-12. **R**

Shanahan, M. J. (2000). Pathways to adulthood in changing societies: Variability and mechanisms in life course perspective. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 26, 667-92. **R**

Caspi, A. (2000). The child is father of the man: Personality continuities from childhood to adulthood. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 78, 158-172. **O**

## **Transitioning into Adulthood: how does this vary within and across societies?**

Cohen, P., Kasen, S., Chen, H., Hartmark, C., & Gordon, K. (2003). Variations in patterns of developmental transitions in the emerging adulthood period. *Developmental Psychology*, 39(4), 657-669. **R**

Schulenberg, J. E., Bryant, A. L., & O'Malley, P. M. (2004). Taking hold of some kind of life: How developmental tasks relate to trajectories of well-being during the transition to adulthood. *Development & Psychopathology*, 16(4), 1119-1140. **R**

Shanahan, M. J., Porfeli, E., & Mortimer, J. T. (2005). Subjective age identity and the transition to adulthood: When does one become an adult? In R. A. Settersten, Jr. et al. (Eds.), *On the frontier of adulthood: Theory, research, and public policy* (Ch. 7, pp. 225-255). Chicago: University of Chicago Press. **O**

Cook, T.D. & Furstenburg, F.F. (2002). Explaining aspects of the transition to adulthood in Italy, Sweden, Germany and the United States: A cross-disciplinary, case synthesis approach. *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 580, 257-287. **R**

Vollebergh, W. A. M., Iedema, J., & Raaijmakers, Q. A. W. (2001). Intergenerational transmission and the formation of cultural orientations in adolescence and young adulthood. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 63(4), 1185-1198. **O**

Maysel, O. & Scharf, M. (2003). What does it mean to be an adult? The Israeli experience. *New Directions for Child and Adolescent Development*, 100, 5-20. **O**

Facio, A., & Micocci, F. (2003). Emerging adulthood in Argentina. *New Directions for Child and Adolescent Development*, 100, 21-31. O

## **What is the role of Race, Gender and SES? And Review for Midterm**

Tuesday October 13:

Oppenheimer, V.K. & Lewin, A. (1999). Career development and marriage formation in a period of rising inequality: Who is at risk? What are their prospects? In A. C. Crouter, A. Booth, & M. J. Shanahan (Ed.), *Transitions to adulthood in a changing economy: No work? No family? No future?*. Westport, CT: Praeger. R

Graber, J. (1999). Sequence and timing among young adult transitions: The impact of poverty on developmental course. In A. C. Crouter, A. Booth, & M. J. Shanahan (Ed.), *Transitions to adulthood in a changing economy: No work? No family? No future?*. Westport, CT: Praeger. R

Mollenkopf, J., Waters, M.C., Holdaway, J., & Kasinitz, P. (2005). The ever-winding path: Ethnic and racial diversity in the transition to adulthood. In R. A. Settersten, Jr. et al. (Eds.), *On the frontier of adulthood: Theory, research, and public policy* (Ch. 14, pp. 455-495). Chicago: University of Chicago Press. R

Harris, K.M., Gordon-Larsen, P., Chantala, K., & Udry, J.R. (2006). Longitudinal trends in race/ethnic disparities in leading health indicators from adolescence to young adulthood. *Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine*, 160, 74-81. R

## **Tuesday October 20: Midterm Exam**

### **Transitions to Work and Secondary Schooling**

Tuesday October 27:

Lefkowitz, E.S. (2005). "Things have gotten better": Developmental changes among emerging adults after the transition to university. *Journal of Adolescent Research*, 20(1), 40-63. R

Duncan, G.J., Boisjoly, J., Kremer, M., Levy, D.M., & Eccles, J. (2005). Peer effects in drug use and sex among college students. *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology*, 33(3), 375-385. R

Arnett, J. (2004). Work: More than a job. In *The Winding Road from the Late Teens through the Twenties* (pp. 143-165). New York, New York: Oxford University Press. R

Blustein, D. L., Phillips, S. D., Jobin-Davis, K., Finkelberg, S. L., Roarke, A. E. (1997). A theory-building investigation of the school-to-work transition. *The Counseling Psychologist*, 25(3), 364-402. O

Rosenbaum, J.E., DeLuca, S., Miller, S.R., & Roy, K. (1999). Pathways into work: Short- and long-term effects of personal and institutional ties. *Sociology of Education*, 72, 179-196. **O**

Sandefur, G.D., Eggerling-Boeck, J., & Park, H. (2005). Off to a good start? Postsecondary education and early adult life. In R. A. Settersten, Jr. et al. (Eds.), *On the frontier of adulthood: Theory, research, and public policy* (Ch. 9, pp. 292-319). Chicago: University of Chicago Press. **R**

Cozby, Paul C. (2001). Where to start. In *Methods in Behavioral Research* (Chapter 2, pp. 13-30). Mountain View, CA: Mayfield Publishing Company. **R**

### **Work: Human Capital and Labor Force Participation (Research Proposal Topic Due)**

Tuesday November 3:

Caspi, A., Wright, B. R. E., Moffitt, T. E., & Silva, P. A. (1998). Early failure in the labor market: Childhood and adolescent predictors of unemployment in the transition to adulthood. *American Sociological Review*, 63(3), 424-451. **R**

Hill, M., & Yeung, W. (1999). How has the changing structure of opportunities affected transitions to adulthood? In A. Booth, A. Crouter, & M. Shanahan (Eds.), *Transitions to adulthood in a changing economy: No work, no family, no future?* (pp. 3-39). Westport, CT: Praeger. **R**

Klerman, J. A., & Karoly, L. A. (1994). Young men and the transition to stable employment. *Monthly Labor Review*, 117, 31-48. **R**

Alon, S., Donahoe, D., & Tienda, M. (2001). The effects of early work experience on young women's labor force attachment. *Social Forces*, 79(3), 1005-1034. **R**

### **Relationships with the Family, Friends and Romantic Partners**

Tuesday November 10:

Fuligni, A., & Pedersen, S. (2002). Family obligation and the transition to young adulthood. *Developmental Psychology*, 38, 856-868. **R**

Aquilino, W. S. (1997). From adolescent to young adult: A prospective study of parent-child relations during the transition to adulthood. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 59(3), 670-686. **R**

Robinson, L. C. (2000). Interpersonal relationship quality in young adulthood: A gender analysis. *Adolescence*, 35(140), 775-84. **O**

Arnett, J. (2004). From conflict to companionship: A new relationship with parents. In

*The Winding Road from the Late Teens through the Twenties*. New York, New York: Oxford University Press. **R**

Waldinger, R. J., Diguier, L., Guastella, F., Lefebvre, R., Allen, J. P., Luborsky, L., & Hauser, S. (2002). The same old song? --Stability and change in relationship schemes from adolescence to young adulthood. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 31(1), 17-29. **R**

Fraley, R.C. & Davis, K.E. (1997). Attachment formation and transfer in young adults' close friendships and romantic relationships. *Personal Relationships*, 4, 131-141. **R**

### **Love: Cohabitation and Marriage**

Tuesday November 17:

Arnett, J. (2004). Meandering Toward Marriage. In *The Winding Road from the Late Teens through the Twenties* (pp. 97-117). New York, New York: Oxford University Press. **R**

Carroll, J.S., Willoughby, B., Badger, S., Nelson, L., Barry, C., & Madsen, S. (2007). So close, yet so far away: The impact of varying marital horizons on emerging adulthood. *Journal of Adolescent Research*, 22(3), 219-247. **R**

Whitehead, B. D., & Popenoe, D. (1999). Why wed? Young adults talk about sex, love, and first unions. Report of the National Marriage Project, Rutgers, NJ. **O**

Horwitz, A.V., White, Helene R., & Howell-White, S. (1996). Becoming married and mental health: A longitudinal study of a cohort of young adults. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 58(4), 895-907. **R**

### **Psychological Well-being: what are the risks associated with this time period?**

Masten, A.S. (2004). Regulatory processes, risk and resilience in adolescent development. *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, 1021, 310-319. **O**

Gore, S., Aseltine, R., Colton, M.E., & Lin, B. (1997). Life after high school: Development, stress, and well-being. In I. Gotlib & B. Wheaton (Eds.), *Stress and adversity over the life course* (pp. 197-214). NY, NY: Cambridge University Press. **R**

Pine, D. S., Cohen, P., Gurley, D., Brook, J., & Ma, Y. (1998). The risk for early-adulthood anxiety and depressive disorders in adolescents with anxiety and depressive disorders. *Archives of General Psychiatry*, 55(1), 56-64. **R**

Hagan, J. & Foster, H. (2003). S/he's a rebel: Toward a sequential stress theory of delinquency and gendered pathways to disadvantage in emerging adulthood. *Social Forces*, 82(1), 53 -86. **O**

Hofstra, M. B., & van der Ende, J., & Verhulst, F. (2002). Pathways of self-reported problem behaviors from adolescence into adulthood. *The American Journal of Psychiatry*, 159(3), 401-407. **R**

### **Policy Implications: Future Directions**

Tuesday November 24

Foster, E. M. & Gifford, E.J. (2005). The transition to adulthood for youth leaving public systems: Challenges to policies and research. In R. A. Settersten, Jr. et al. (Eds.), *On the frontier of adulthood: Theory, research, and public policy* (Ch. 15, pp. 501-533). Chicago: University of Chicago Press. **R**

Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago & The MacArthur Research Network on Transitions to Adulthood and Public Policy. (2005). *Adolescence and the transition to adulthood: Rethinking public policy for a new century*. Philadelphia, PA: The MacArthur Research Network. **R**

Settersten, R. A., Jr. (2005). Social policy and the transition to adulthood: Toward stronger institutions and individual capacities. In R. A. Settersten, Jr. et al. (Eds.), *On the frontier of adulthood: Theory, research, and public policy* (Ch. 16, pp. 534-560). Chicago: University of Chicago Press. **R**

**Final Student Presentations in class Tuesday, December 2 and Final Research Proposals due Friday December 5**