

**Sociology 101-6: Teens, Tweens and Adolescents - FINAL VERSION**  
**Mondays and Wednesdays: 11:00 - 12:20**  
**Dr. Karrie Ann Snyder**

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**Office hours: 3:45 to 4:45 - Monday and Wednesdays (no appointment needed)**

The course will be an intensive discussion and writing course examining the concepts of teens, tweens and adolescents in our society. As a class, we will look at the origins of these life stages, why these developmental stages have emerged, and the impact that these concepts have for the lived experiences of young people. We will also look at how society treats teens and tweens and how society's views have changed over the last few decades. The aim of this course will be to understand how sociologists have thought about these issues, but we will also draw on research from other fields including psychology and history as well as several popular portrayals of tweens/teens. In particular, we will focus on how social inequality in the form of gender, race/ethnic, class inequalities shape our perceptions of teens as well as the experience of being a young person in our society. Students are expected and encouraged to bring their insights, opinions, and perspectives to class discussions.

### **Course Policies**

#### **Course Materials – All available at Norris Bookstore**

Palladino, *Teenagers: An American History*

Simmons, *Odd Girl Out: The Hidden Culture of Aggression in Girls* (either 1st or 2nd editions are fine).

Wiseman, *Masterminds and Wingmen: Helping Our Boys Cope with Schoolyard Power, Locker-Room Tests, Girlfriends, and the New Rules of Boy World*

Kuklin, *Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out*

Readings marked with \*\* will available on the course's Canvas site OR are available at the links following the title.

(Additional materials may be required as well and added throughout the semester. Any additional materials will be available electronically through the course's Canvas website.)

#### **Assignments and Assessments**

**Please note - All papers/assignments are due by the beginning of class time on the date indicated. Paper guidelines will indicate how papers should be turned in (Canvas or hard-copy during class).**

Your final grade will be based on:

- 1) Class participation - 20% - Class participation includes attendance, participating during class discussions and small group exercises, and completing any assigned discussion exercises. Students will also be responsible for a brief participation presentation once during the quarter (details will be posted to Canvas and discussed during the second week of the quarter).
- 2) 2 shorter papers (Paper #1 and Paper #2) - 20% each
- 3) Final Paper - 30%
- 4) Research skills assignment - 10%

\*\*Assignment guidelines for Paper #1, Paper #2, Final Paper, Research Skills Assignment will be given out during class and will be posted to Canvas.

**Paper assignments will consist of a paper (within the specified page limit) and often preliminary in-class exercises as well. Failure to complete the preliminary assignments (if any) will result in a lower grade on your paper. NO late work will be accepted.**

## **Attendance Policy**

Attendance is mandatory. More than three absences will result in a failing grade for the course. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out what was missed. Please make note of two other students' email addresses. My lecture notes are not available for students.

## **Academic Integrity**

Issues regarding academic integrity will be immediately referred to the Dean's Office. For further information regarding the academic integrity policy at Northwestern, please consult the *Student Handbook* and/or <http://www.northwestern.edu/uacc/uniprin.html>.

## **AccessibleNU (Formerly the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities - SSD)**

Any student with a documented disability needing accommodations is requested to speak directly to AccessibleNU (847-467-5530) and the instructor as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first two weeks of class.) All discussions will remain confidential.

## **Laptop Policy**

Laptops (along with other forms of technology including cell phones, iPods, etc.) are not to be used during class discussions. This includes no texting during class.

***\*\*This syllabus is as of September 21, 2016. If there are any modifications to the assignments, course policies, and/or evaluation criteria, any updates will be posted on the course's Canvas site. Students are responsible for any changes and additions to the syllabus and course assignments and for any announcements made during lecture.***

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### **Week 1**

#### **Sept 21 – Wednesday – Introduction to the Course**

#### **I. The Sociological Perspective**

### **Week 2**

#### **Sept 26 – Monday**

\*\*Mills, "The Promise"

\*\*Matthews, 2007. "A Window on the 'New' Sociology of Childhood", *Sociology Compass* 1/1: 322–334.

#### **II. Rise of the Teenager/Tween**

#### **Sept 28 – Wednesday**

Palladino, *Teenagers* - Chapters 1, 3, 4, 5, and (read pages 81-82 and 92-93 only of Chapter 6)

### **Week 3**

#### **Oct 3 – Monday**

Palladino, *Teenagers* - Chapters 7, 8, 11, 12

### III. Media – Agent of Socialization and Image-Maker

#### **Oct 5 – Wednesday**

"Killing Me Softly" – Documentary in class

**Assignment Due: Paper #1**

#### **Week 4**

#### **Oct 10 – Monday**

\*\*Karen Sternheimer, "It's Not the Media: The Truth About Pop Culture's Influence On Children"

\*\*Parker-Pope, "The Myth of Rampant Teenage Promiscuity"  
(<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/01/27/health/27well.html>)

#### **Oct 12 – Wednesday**

**Peer review exercise! Details will be discussed during class on Oct 10.**

### IV. Gender, Socioeconomic Status and Race/Ethnicity

#### **Week 5**

#### **Oct 17 – Monday**

Simmons, *Odd Girl Out: The Hidden Culture of Aggression in Girls* - Introduction & Chapters 1, 2, 3

**Assignment Due: Paper #1 Rewrite**

#### **Oct 19 – Wednesday**

Simmons, *Odd Girl Out: The Hidden Culture of Aggression in Girls* - Chapter 6 (The Bully in the Mirror), Chapter 8 (Resistance) and Chapter 10 (Helping Her Through Drama, Bullying, and Everything In Between) [Please note: If you have the 2002 edition of Simmons - go by the chapter titles.]

#### **Week 6**

#### **Oct 24 – Monday**

Wiseman, *Masterminds and Wingmen: Helping Our Boys Cope with Schoolyard Power, Locker-Room Tests, Girlfriends, and the New Rules of Boy World* - Chapters to be announced

#### **Oct 26 – Wednesday**

Wiseman, *Masterminds and Wingmen: Helping Our Boys Cope with Schoolyard Power, Locker-Room Tests, Girlfriends, and the New Rules of Boy World* - Chapters to be announced

#### **Week 7**

#### **Oct 31 – Monday**

In-class movie

#### **Nov 2 – Wednesday**

Movie Discussion

**Assignment Due: Paper #2**

#### **Week 8**

#### **Nov 7 – Monday**

Kuklin, *Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out* - Chapters to be announced

#### **Nov 9 – Wednesday**

Kuklin, *Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out* - Chapters to be announced

## Week 9

### Nov 14 – Monday

Readings/Topic to be announced

**Assignment Due: Research Skills Assignment**

### Nov 16 – Wednesday

Readings/Topic to be announced

## Week 10 – Closing thoughts

### Nov 21 – Monday

\*\* Arnett, *Emerging Adulthood* - Chapter excerpts

\*\* Nichols and Good, 2004. "The Continuing Myth of Adolescence." Pp. 1-29 in *America's Teenagers – Myths and Realities*, Nichols and Good, eds. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Publishers.

### Nov 23 – Wednesday

Final Paper - Discussion and helpful hints

**Assignment Due: Final Paper due to Canvas by 11am on Monday, December 5th.**