

EXAM 1: Adolescent Development CLASS NOTES

Chapter 1 The Social Context of Adolescence

- Adolescence is socially constructive, is a recent concept b/w childhood and adulthood
- Most base it off puberty Adolescence
- Begins w/ puberty – physically mature
- Usually b/w 11-13 years old
- Transition from one stage to the other is gradual and uncertain
- The upper boundary of adolescence is less clear like when it stops
 - Physical maturity? Would then be 25
 - Legal status as an adult (11-18)
 - Attainment of financial and emotional independence
 - Socially constructed
 - Our culture usually thinks 11-18 = adolescence
- 3 Phases of Adolescence
 - Early adolescence 11-14
 - Middle adolescence 15-17
 - Late adolescence 18 & older w/ full recognition that some 18, 19, 20 year olds are truly adults
 - Emerging adulthood – b/w adolescence and adulthood

Approaches to Studying Adolescence

- Biological
 - Puberty, nutritional needs, etc.
- Cognitive
 - Memory, problem solving, interests, changes in brain
- Psychosexual
 - Emotions, sense of self, sexuality, etc.
- Social Relationship
 - Friendships, parent-child relations, etc.
- Eclectic
 - Interdisciplinary approach, looking at the entire picture
- Adolescent population is slowly growing in the US
- Shrinking relative to other age groups
 - Especially the elderly
- Ethnic makeup is changing
 - Less Caucasians
- More living in western and southern states

Evolving Society

- Cohorts:
 - Similarly-aged persons who experience the same historic events
- Adolescent cohorts since the early 1900s
 - The lost generation: WWI adolescents
 - GI Generation: kids during great depression, adolescents in WW2
 - Silent generation: born too late to serve WWII & too early to jump into 60s born after WWII movement
 - Baby boomers: largest generation, born after WW2
 - Generation X: born mid 1960s-1980s – our parents
 - Generation Y: the “millennial generation” , people born between 1980-2000
 - Generation Z: born after 9/11

Prolongation of Adolescence

- Many adult life transitions are delayed
 - Stay in school longer
 - Financial dependence on parents
 - Move out of parents home later
 - Marry later
 - Why?
 - Good jobs require skills
 - Sexual permissiveness
 - Parents willing to support longer
 - Maturity
 - Emerging adulthood

Evolving Communication & Information Technologies

- Computers
 - Most adolescents use computers at home or at school
- The Internet
 - Email, information, chat rooms, IM
 - Both positive and negative effects on adolescents
 - i.e. suicidal teens using social media
 - Cell phones
 - Changing communication

Evolving World of Work and Consumption

- Longer work hours
- Internet

- Increase employment of women, including mothers
- Increase adolescent employment
 - Leading to increase in adolescent advertisement

Evolving Educational Imperatives

- Increase in class room technology
- Awareness of the need for career preparation while in high school
- Increased use of web resources

Changing in Family Dynamics

- More teens will have been raised by single mothers
- The number of children per family has decreased
- Increase in non-marital cohabitation
- Out-of-wedlock births
- Divorce
 - Divorce is NOT at all time high

Evolving Sexual Landscape

- Positive effects of the sexual revolution
 - Acceptance of sexual desire
 - Scientific knowledge about sexual functioning
 - Contraceptives
 - More awareness of rape and sexual violence
 - Flexible gender roles
- Negative
 - Earlier premarital sexual behavior
 - Non-marital pregnancy
 - High rates of STDs and AIDs

Evolving Safety Concerns

- Increase fears of terrorism
- High fear of violent crime:
 - In society
 - In home
 - In schools
- Violence a major cause of adolescent mortality

Applying Scientific Method

- Question
- Hypothesis
- Research design: plan to collect data
- Sampling: people to participate