

FYC 4212 CONTEMPORARY YOUTH PROBLEMS & SOLUTIONS

*This syllabus serves as a guideline for the course of study, learning outcomes, course requirements, expectations, grading, instructor information and approximate timelines.
You will be informed of any changes during class and on Canvas.*

COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor:

Michelle Abraczinskas, PhD
Assistant Professor, Department of FYCS
Office: 3038-D McCarty Hall D
Email: mabraczinskas@ufl.edu
Office Phone: 352-273-3519

Class Location:

Tuesday: Carleton Auditorium (CAR) 0100
Thursday: Turlington (TUR) L011

Class Time:

Tuesday: 11:45-1:40pm
Thursday: 12:50-1:40pm

Office Hours: Office hours will be held Thursdays from 1:45-3 and by appointment. Students can join office hours via zoom using a link in Canvas or meet in person.

Course Website <http://elearning.ufl.edu/>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This three credit hour course covers the ecological context of youth development, with emphasis on issues of transition, development, problem behavior, risks and opportunities in adolescence, and youth resilience, as it is fostered within individuals, families, and communities.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK & READINGS

Weis, R. (2020). *Introduction to abnormal child and adolescent psychology* (4th Ed.). Los Angeles: Sage. ISBN: 978-1071840627

Students may watch videos and obtain study guides, self-quizzes, and links to internet sites relevant to the text at edge.sagepub.com/weis4e.

Any additional readings are provided in the course Canvas site.

CERTIFIED FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION (CFLE)

The content of this course is approved by the National Council on Family Relations as part of the University of Florida's certified family life education program in the Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences. This course is approved to meet professional requirements for training in specified content areas that prepare a student to meet standards for provisional certification as a family life educator.

*See <https://www.ncfr.org/cfle-certification/what-family-life-education> for CFLE courses/standards.

PREREQUISITE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

The following courses are listed as prerequisites in the Catalog: FYC 3001 & FYC 3201. If you do not have these prerequisites, please speak to the instructor. In addition, the following are recommended: (a) an awareness and basic understanding of the challenges faced by youth; (b) some background in theories of human development from an undergraduate social science course; and (c) professional writing skills at the advanced undergraduate level.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To develop content knowledge in the theoretical and empirical foundations of youth development and the causes, consequences, and solutions to contemporary youth problems, focusing on behavioral health.
2. To apply one's own personal experience as an adolescent to understanding youth risk and resilience today.
3. To learn how to evaluate the efficacy and effectiveness of youth development and prevention programs that are designed to encourage healthy youth development and reduce negative behavioral health outcomes.
4. To gain a deeper understanding of a contemporary youth problem, summarize our current theoretical and scientific understanding of the problem, and synthesize the information for a lay audience and/or the public.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

ATTENDANCE

To fulfill the objectives of this course it is expected that students attend class regularly and on time. We will be meeting every **Tuesday from 11:45-1:40** and **Thursday from 12:50-1:40**. Regular weekly attendance is important because it facilitates learning and provides opportunities to ask questions in real time. Class will include lecture, discussion, activities, and group work.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

If students are aware that they need to miss a class for any reason, they should contact the instructor prior to that class period, and ideally, 24 hours or more before it. Excused absences include: sick days with a doctor's note or proof of clinic visit, military duty, religious holidays, court-imposed legal obligations, UF performances, death of an immediate family member (documented), UF student conferences, or authorized UF travel. However, excessive absenteeism will jeopardize course performance. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

LATE POLICY

Assignment due dates will be listed in canvas. There is a 24 hour window around due dates. Students do not need to contact me if the assignment was submitted in canvas within 24 hours of when it was due. For example, no need to email that your internet went down, computer froze, etc. After the 24 hour window, five (5) points per day will be deducted from late assignments. Assignments will not be accepted if they are more than 1 week late without extenuating circumstances, and a grade of zero will be given. If there are circumstances beyond your control that make it difficult to get your assignment in on time, it is your responsibility to contact me in writing via email as quickly as possible to explain the delay, ideally before the assignment is due.

WRITTEN WORK

All written work for the course must comply with APA (7th Ed.) guidelines. It must be typed on 8 1/2" X 11" white paper, 1" margins, and appropriate headings and subheadings. The font should be 11-12pt (Times New Roman or Arial). All papers should be proofread before they are turned in with special attention to correcting all spelling, grammatical, and punctuation errors. Professional use of the English language is expected. If you quote, paraphrase, or summarize the work of others, you must cite your source. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and can result in failure. For further information, see supplemental documents on APA formatting and common grammatical errors. With the exception of in-person, in-class activities, written work must be submitted on Canvas. Handwritten assignments will not be accepted, nor will assignments emailed to me or brought to class. I recommend that you always save an electronic version of your work somewhere else in addition to your home computer/laptop (in a zip drive, dropbox, email) and that you hold onto any returned assignments until your final grade has been posted.

READINGS

Students are expected to stay current with the reading assignments. The readings will provide the basis for class discussion and the student should read them prior to class.

ASSIGNMENTS

The following assignments are required of all students. Information on assignment guidelines and due dates are in Canvas Assignments and the Course Calendar. The assignments are designed to promote critical thinking and to enhance professional writing skills. All written assignments must be submitted through Canvas, which will use TurnItIn to assess for plagiarism. All assignments must follow the guidelines for written work.

ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to be present and participate in class. Attendance will be taken during 3 randomly selected classes, counting **5 points** each time toward your total grade.

PARTICIPATION

Students will **earn up to 75 points for participating in class activities** in small groups. They will produce an end product with the group (e.g., completing a worksheet, answering questions) at the end of the class period for a participation grade. The points will be allocated when the product is submitted. Students not in class will not receive participation points for that day. Disrespectful classroom behavior will result in a loss of participation points.

STUDENT BIOGRAPHY

Students will assemble a brief one-page biography, including a recent photo (if willing), and a personal description. The student biographies will assist the instructor in learning names/faces. Please include the following on your biography:

- First & last name, preferred name/nickname, and preferred pro-nouns
- Hometown
- Email
- Major, year & plans for after graduation (what job you eventually hope to have)
- Reason(s) for taking this course
- What youth problem topic are you most interested in and why?
- 1 hobby and 1 thing you do for self-care
- 1 thing you like about Gainesville
- What can help you succeed in this course
- Anything else you want me to know about you

PROJECT PREP ASSIGNMENTS AND FINAL PRODUCT

Students will work individually on a project throughout the semester related to a self-selected youth problem of interest. The purpose of the project is to 1) gain an in depth understanding of a youth problem; 2) review the literature of the common risk and protective factors; 3) identify strategies that can prevent or intervene on the selected problem; and 4) communicate the knowledge obtained to a lay/public audience. For the final product, students will have two choices. Students can: 1) create an informational presentation on the content for a local youth serving non-profit, organization, or other system, with a detailed, scripted notes section or 2) create an infographic on the chosen youth problem, with a two page write up. The project will be completed in steps throughout the semester through **four assignments** due on specific dates (see course calendar). The purpose of these assignments is to synthesize research and apply your understanding of adolescent problems to a real-world context. **For both options, students will present their final project** in the final weeks of the semester. Students will either present a slide deck with the audience filling in as the targeted group, or display their infographic and discuss the design, communication, and dissemination strategies.

READING ASSESSMENT QUIZZES (RAQ)

The Reading Assessment Quiz (RAQ) is a **10-item multiple choice quiz** that assesses knowledge and understanding of the readings. There will be **four RAQs**; two before the first exam and two before the second. The quizzes will help prepare students for the exams.

EXAMS

There will be **two exams**. Exams will be mainly multiple choice, with two short answer questions. The exams will be a mix of information from the book and lectures. The final will not be cumulative.

GRADING INFORMATION

Requirement	Points Possible
Attendance	15
Participation	75
Project	230
Individual Prep Assignments (4@30 points each) 120 points	
Final Product (60 points)	
Class Presentation (50 points)	
Quizzes (4@15 points each) + syllabus quiz (10 points)	70
Exams (2@50 points each)	100
Bio (10 points)	10
Total	500
There will be up to 10 points of extra credit opportunities	

GRADING SCALE

Points Earned	465-500	450-464.9	435-449.9	415-434.9	400-414.9	385-399.9	365-384.9	350-364.9	335-349.9	315-334.9	300-314.9	< 299.9			
Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E			
Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E	WF	I	NG
Grade Points	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	.67	0	0	0	0

For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

OTHER COURSE POLICIES

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

RESPECT OTHERS. This course covers a variety of sensitive issues, and students in the class come from a variety of backgrounds. We will enjoy many class discussions and everyone's opinion, as well as cultural background, is to be respected. As members of this class we will not verbally pass judgment on others, even though our values and opinions may differ. Treat others as you hope to be treated. Additionally, we will use kind and constructive language; we will not criticize others or put them down. We will use active listening skills when engaging with others, such as making eye contact, taking turns, not interrupting, asking questions, and giving others time to respond. We will also respect if someone does not want to talk about a specific topic for personal or other reasons. Behavior that is disrespectful to the instructor includes, but is not limited, to: excessive talking with a classmate (excluding in class activities); texting; premature packing of personal belongings.

If anyone feels harmed or misrepresented, by the instructors or any individual in the class, speak with me so that the problem can be dealt with immediately. Please do not let feelings build up and interfere with your experience in this course.

TECHNOLOGY. All cell phones must be on silent and anything else that makes noise turned off. Students will be given a warning, and then asked to leave class, if using technology in a way that disrupts the instructor or the class. If there is a reason that you need to answer the phone during class, such as a family emergency, please let me know before class begins. Use of technology that is disrespectful to the instructor includes, but is not limited, to: social media use; playing games; messaging other students; surfing the internet. Treat me the way you would want to be treated while presenting.

ATTENDANCE. If you need to leave class early, please let me know before class begins. If you leave class without letting me know why you need to leave early, and it is not an emergency, I will deduct participation points.

SOCRATIC METHOD OF LEARNING. Students will be expected to engage in the Socratic Method of learning. This means that you may be called upon in class or otherwise expected to engage in a classroom discussion that encourages sharing thoughts, engaging in critical thinking, and articulating what you have learned. This is a form of active learning which tends to be more effective; however, if you are unprepared for class, you may find yourself uncomfortable in the process. Be prepared.

EXPECTATIONS OF CONFIDENTIALITY. Respect for confidentiality of personal information shared by your classmates is an absolute must. Do not talk to others about personal information your classmates share in discussions. Likewise, if you choose to share personal information or use a friend or family member as a case example, please refrain from using their names and/or identifying information.

EMAILING THE INSTRUCTOR: Please use e-mail messaging through Canvas as your primary method of contacting me. **You can expect a response from me within 48 hours, if you send me an email message via Canvas.** If your e-mail is not returned within 48 hours (excluding weekends), please re-send your message. I will not respond to emails sent after 6pm until the next business day. I will respond to emails sent on the weekend on Monday morning.

If you have a question about the course, please **read the syllabus and canvas materials to see if the question is answered elsewhere.** If you ask a question with an answer on the syllabus (e.g., how many points are exams worth?), I will reply with “Please see the syllabus and email me if there are further questions.” I am happy to answer questions about other course material over email, during office hours, or a separately scheduled meeting.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE: Please check your calendars against the course schedule. Any student having a conflict in the class schedule due to religious observances should contact the instructor as soon as possible so that they can make necessary arrangements.

The UF/IFAS Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences is committed to engaging positively in a global and diverse society through its teaching, extension, and research efforts. That commitment is demonstrated by creating an inclusive educational environment that fosters belonging as we mentor students, perform relevant scholarship, and conduct outreach for families, youth, and communities that is sensitive and responsive to the needs of diverse audiences. Intentional effort is made to providing access and equity to underrepresented, underserved, marginalized, and minoritized people in Florida and beyond.

UF POLICIES

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACCOMMODATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Disability Resource Center coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services, and mediating faculty-student disability related issues. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation

Location: Reid Hall, 352-392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu/>

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACADEMIC HONESTY

As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge: “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.” You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

It is assumed that you will complete all work independently in each course unless the instructor provides explicit permission for you to collaborate on course tasks (e.g. assignments, papers, quizzes, exams). Furthermore, as part of your obligation to uphold the Honor Code, you should report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For more information regarding the Student Honor Code and Students Conduct Code, please see: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>.

We will do quite a bit of group work in class and I encourage you to study with colleagues outside of class. However, on tests, and for some assignments, you should work independently. The exams and quizzes are open book and note, but should be completed independently. Chat GPT should NOT be used, either to outline or complete assignments, unless instructed otherwise. Any use of Chat GPT will be treated as academic dishonesty and reported as such.

FERPA

According to FERPA guidelines, I cannot release information about your grades or class attendance to anyone other than you, and I will keep your class information private. Grades will be posted securely on Canvas so that only the student and professor can view them.

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ATTENDANCE AND MAKE-UP WORK

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

RECORDING CLASS SESSIONS

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited.

Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session. Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student

ONLINE COURSE EVALUATION PROCESS

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. The evaluation helps me learn how to improve the class for future students, and also serves as an evaluation of my performance used towards promotion. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via

<https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

NETIQUETTE GUIDE

All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all online communication. For specific guidelines READ the following: <https://teach.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.docx>

SOFTWARE USE

All faculty, staff, and students of the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

GETTING TECHNICAL HELP

For technical difficulties with Canvas or elearning, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- helpdesk@ufl.edu
- (352) 392-HELP (4357)
- <https://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>

HELPING RESOURCES

Students experiencing crises/personal problems that interfere with their well-being are encouraged to utilize the university's counseling resources. The Counseling & Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available for both on and off campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career/academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance. Some services are only available to on campus students.

University Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road, 352-392-1575,
www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/

- Counseling Services
- Groups and Workshops
- Outreach and Consultation
- Self-Help Library
- Wellness Coaching

U Matter We Care, www.umatter.ufl.edu/

Career Resource Center, First Floor JWRU, 392-1601

Food Resources

[Field and Fork Pantry](#): A free on campus resource of non-perishable foods and toiletries for students with food insecurity. There is no proof of need; you only need to bring your UFID card.

Aid-A-Gator: Funding for emergencies

<https://www.sfa.ufl.edu/aidagator/>

Virtual Student Union: Provides up-to-date student resources

<https://ufsa.ufl.edu/virtual-union/>

Student Health Center:

<https://shcc.ufl.edu>

Note that the instructors reserve the right to adjust the syllabus as needed.