

University of Texas at Austin
Course Syllabus
EDA 395, Research on College Students

This is a draft of the syllabus for Summer 2005

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This course uses developmental theory to explore the research on college students. We use film, narratives, and other types of data to explore sexual identity, gender identity, racial/ethnic identity, and moral development; plus general identity development of college students.

Texts:

Evans, N.J., Forney, D.S., & Guido-DiBrito, F. (1998). *Student Development in College: Theory, Research, and Practice*. San Francisco: Jossey Bass. (This book should be available used).

American Psychological Association. (2005). *Concise Rules of APA Style*. Washington, DC: Author. (Optional book; those students outside the College of Education may use the style manual for their discipline).

I recommend Endnote or a similar software package for the bibliographic needs of graduate students (<http://www.endnote.com>).

Course requirements:

1. Ten-page paper which applies developmental theory to at least one adolescent or college film. Students will develop a coding scheme appropriate for the theory and code the movie. I will provide an outline for the paper. (60% of grade). I encourage students who would like to present a paper at a conference or write a

journal article to collaborate on this paper and analyze more than one film; please discuss this with me.

2. Class discussion and participation – this includes in-class discussion/work and online discussion in Blackboard (40% of grade).

Course outline (course is intensive summer session)

Meeting	Topic	Assignments
1	Introduction to developmental theory; research; Reel v. real life; history of college movies	Text, chapters 1-2
2	Qual. Research; gender identity theory	Online readings and handouts; text chapter 3
3	Gender identity theory	Online readings, chapter 4
4	Sexual identity theory	Online readings; text chapter 7
5	Psycho-social development	Online readings; text chapter 3, 8, 9
6	Psycho-social development	
7	Racial/ethnic identity theory	Online readings; text chapter 5
8	Racial/ethnic identity theory	
9	Moral development theory; gender differences	Online readings, chapters 10 and 11
10	Typology theories	Online readings, chapters 12-14
11	Sports/horror genres	Papers due, chapter 6
12	Reflections; discussion of your papers	

College movies:

I've identified well over 100 movies set on college campuses and I've watched more than 70 of those. While this list is by no means exhaustive, I focus here on films produced from 1980 on because of their availability. These college movies fit the various developmental theories (for most movies, more than one theory is applicable).

Theory	Films
Gender identity	<i>Legally Blonde, Real Women Have Curves, Bend it Like Beckham, Cannibal Women of the Avocado Jungle of Death, House on Sorority Row, Sorority Boys, Slumber Party Massacre, Animal House, School Daze, PCU</i>
Racial/ethnic identity	<i>Real Women Have Curves, Bend it Like Beckham, Higher Learning, School Daze, Drum Line</i>
Adult Development	<i>Educating Rita, Back to School</i>
Moral development	<i>Do the Right Thing, Slackers, Legally Blonde, Real Genius, Freshman, Reefer Madness, The Curve, Perfect Score, Gross Misconduct</i>
Sexual	<i>Threesome, The L Word</i> (I have the entire first season of this on DVD)

identity	
Cognitive development	<i>Paper Chase, Legally Blonde, Socratic Method (from script), Providence</i>
General identity development	<i>Loser, Animal House, How I got into College, Breaking Away, Gossip, Rudy, Nerds (trilogy), Skulls (trilogy), Perfect Score, Big Man on Campus, Horsefeathers, The Curve, Campus Man</i>
Sports films	<i>Everybody's All American, One on One, The Program, Rudy, Breaking Away, Defense Play</i>
Slasher films	<i>Splatter University, Cutting Class, Scream 2, Urban Legends, Carrie, Brotherhood, Getting In, American Psycho, House on Sorority Row, I know what you did Last Summer</i>
Faculty films	<i>A Beautiful Mind, Nutty Professor series, Evolution, Flubber series, Cannibal Women in the Avocado Jungle of Death, Wonder Boys</i>
Other	<i>Strawberry Statement</i>

Note: Some movie scripts are available online for a more precise analysis.