ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
No formal qualifications are required. However, all modules are taught at university level and students should be able to read, write and speak English fluently. Students new to psychology will benefit from undertaking some preparatory reading as detailed below.

AIM
To explore the potential impact of a range of developmental disorders, psychological disorders and adverse experiences on young people’s lives and on their education.

OBJECTIVES
• Explore the cultural context of adolescence and key aspects of psychosocial, biological and cognitive development.
• Explore the impact of a range of psychological disorders on young people’s lives and their education.
• Explore the impact of a range of adverse experiences on young people’s lives and their education.
• Consider the ethical and methodological problems of research with young people.
• Support and develop students’ study and critical thinking skills.
• Support students to take part in the assessment process.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
By the end of the course you will be able to:
• Outline key ideas and major theories of adolescent development.
• Outline key aspects of psychosocial, biological and cognitive development in adolescence.
• Outline and begin to evaluate the key explanations for the causes of a range of psychological conditions that particularly affect adolescents.
Describe and begin to evaluate the potential impact of these conditions on young people’s lives and education.

Outline and begin to evaluate the current psychological thinking on the impact of a range of adverse experiences on young people’s lives and education.

Begin to identify ethical and methodological problems in research with children.

Think critically about the subjects covered.

Present your own ideas about issues addressed on the course.

Discuss and implement a range of strategies to support your learning.

Successfully plan and write essays and other assignments which have been set to support your learning on this course.

COURSE CONTENT

Introduction
The course will begin with a brief recap of appropriate concepts and theories in order to contextualise the planned areas of discussion; Major theories of adolescent psychosocial, biological and cognitive development will be revisited, focusing particularly on puberty, family and peer relations, identity formation, the development of autonomy and independence and sexuality. This part of the course will also consider the ethical and methodological problems of research with young people.

Developmental Disorders
In this part of the course, we will use our understanding of young people’s development to explore the current key explanations and for a range of developmental conditions associated with adolescence. Although the interests of students will to some extent inform the exact content of this section of the course, it is anticipated that a range of conditions such as Conduct Disorders and Gender Identity Disorders will be considered. Strategies for managing and/or treating these conditions will be discussed as appropriate.

Psychological Disorders
In this part of the course, we will use our understanding of young people’s development to explore the current key explanations and for a range of psychological conditions. Although the interests of students will to some extent inform the exact content of this section of the course, it is anticipated that a range of conditions such as Depression and Anxiety Disorders, Eating Disorders and Self-Harm will be considered. Strategies for managing and/or treating these conditions will be discussed as appropriate.

Adverse Experiences
In this part of the course we will consider the impact of a number of adverse experiences in young people’s lives. Although the specific interests of students will to some extent inform the exact content of this section of the course, it is anticipated that Abuse, Bullying, Parental Divorce or Separation, Substance Abuse, Issues of Self Esteem and Body Image will be considered. Strategies for supporting and/or treating young people with such experiences will be discussed as appropriate.

TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS
Teaching and learning methods will be centred on the needs of students. Introductory lectures with the positive and active involvement of students asking questions and discussing points throughout will generally be the starting point. There will also be individual and small group exercises with feedback to the large group to provide further opportunity for discussion and clarification of ideas. Other methods will include videos and student presentations. Students will be given help and encouragement with study skills. Students will also build on their learning in class by undertaking guided independent study including appropriate reading and research.
METHODS OF ASSESSMENT
The assessment process gives students important opportunities to learn, to check their learning and to discuss their progress with the tutor. Consequently, students will be expected to prepare two pieces of coursework for assessment. These may take a variety of forms such as essays, case studies, reports and possibly class presentations. Each piece will be 1500 words in length (or the equivalent). You are encouraged to discuss with your tutor the particular topics and the type of assignment they would like to focus on in your assessments. It may be possible to accommodate your personal interests within the syllabus. In order to successfully complete the module students must attain at least 40% overall for their coursework.

If the course is completed successfully, 15 Credits at Level 4 will be awarded, which may be transferred to some degree courses.

READING

Please note: Psychology books are frequently revised and updated. Any recent edition would be suitable to use.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES
The My Birkbeck website (http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/) is your gateway to accessing all student support services at Birkbeck.

You may find the following links particularly useful:-

- Obtaining your library/ID card: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/you/cards
- Accessing IT Services: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/facilities/computing/username
- Contacting our disability office: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/facilities/disability/disability-office
- Study skills support: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/facilities/support/study-skills

You can visit the My Birkbeck helpdesk on the ground floor of the main Birkbeck building on Malet Street (entry via Torrington Square). For details of opening hours visit: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/facilities/helpdesk/

You can also call the helpdesk on 020 7631 6316.

LIBRARY AND STUDY SKILLS RESOURCES
Once you have your ID card, you may use the Birkbeck library and associated resources. You may find the following web links helpful:
• For information on how best to access the resources available for psychology students through Birkbeck College Library, students may wish to work through the tutorial available at http://www.bbk.ac.uk/lib/life/
• For specific guidance for psychologists and psychology students on getting the best out the internet go to: http://www.vtstutorials.co.uk/ - and search for ‘Psychology’
• For specific guidance on how to avoid plagiarism in your course work go to https://connect.le.ac.uk/p50066682/ and press the ‘play’ button.

COURSE EVALUATION
During the course students will be asked to complete an evaluation form which gives the opportunity to provide feedback on all aspects of their learning.

WHAT CAN I DO NEXT
It is important you are clear which award the module you are enrolled on counts towards. Our website provides an overview of each Certificate award so you can decide which best suits your needs: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/study/2014/certificates/subject/psychology/

Information is available on core and option modules for each Certificate. Your choice of subsequent modules you take should be informed by this information. Modules can be taken in any order although it is recommended that certain core modules are taken first. Not all core modules have to be taken in the same year. If you need further advice you can contact the department by telephone on 020 3073 8044/020 7631 6669 or by e-mail: psychologycert@bbk.ac.uk

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