**Packet 9 Adulthood**

Stages of Adulthood: Age Characteristics

Early:

Early Transition:

Middle:

Middle Transition:

Late:

Erikson Stages 6-8

Intimacy vs Isolation:

Generativity vs. Stagnation:

Ego Integrity vs. Ego Despair

Priorities: Men Women

Early:

Middle:

During the Middle transition priorities between men and women tend to shift. Sort of a role reversal.

This is due to multiple reasons including:

Physical:

Environmental:

Issues of Late Adulthood:

A: Intellectual changes:

Fluid Intelligence:

Crystalized Intelligence:

Psychological Issues of Aging

Empty Nest Syndrome”

 refers to feelings of depression, sadness, and/or grief experienced by parents and caregivers after children come of age and leave their childhood homes. This may occur when children go to college or get married. Women are more likely than men to be affected; often, when the nest is emptying, mothers are going through other significant life events as well, such as menopause or caring for elderly parents. Yet this doesn't mean that men are completely immune to Empty Nest Syndrome. Men can experience similar feelings of loss regarding the departure of their children.

More mothers work these days and therefore feel less emptiness when their children leave home. Also, an increasing number of adult children between 25 and 34 are now living with their parents at home. Psychologist Allan Scheinberg notes that these "boomerang kids" want the "limited responsibility of childhood and the privileges of adulthood." Children may also return home due to economics, divorce, extended education, drug or alcohol problems or temporary transitions.

Change vs. Continuity:

Issues of Old Age:

Dementia:

Dementia is not a specific disease. It is a descriptive term for a collection of symptoms that can be caused by a number of disorders that affect the brain. People with dementia have significantly impaired intellectual functioning that interferes with normal activities and relationships. They also lose their ability to solve problems and maintain emotional control, and they may experience personality changes and behavioral problems such as agitation, delusions, and hallucinations. While [memory loss](http://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=63547) is a common symptom of dementia, memory loss by itself does not mean that a person has dementia. Doctors diagnose dementia only if two or more brain functions - such as memory, language skills, perception, or cognitive skills including reasoning and judgment - are significantly impaired without loss of consciousness.

There are many disorders that can cause dementia. Some, such as Alzheimer's disease, lead to a progressive loss of mental functions. But other types of dementia can be halted or reversed with appropriate treatment.

Alzheimer's disease (AD)

Alzheimer's disease (AD) is a slowly progressive disease of the brain that is characterized by impairment of memory and eventually by disturbances in reasoning, planning, language, and perception. Many scientists believe that Alzheimer's disease results from an increase in the production or accumulation of a specific protein (beta-amyloid protein) in the brain that leads to nerve cell death.

The likelihood of having Alzheimer's disease increases substantially after the age of 70 and may affect around 50% of persons over the age of 85. Nonetheless, Alzheimer's disease is not a normal part of aging and is not something that inevitably happens in later life. For example, many people live to over 100 years of age and never develop Alzheimer's disease.

The main risk factor for Alzheimer's disease is increased age. As a population ages, the frequency of Alzheimer's disease continues to increase. Ten percent of people over 65 years of age and 50% of those over 85 years of age have Alzheimer's disease. Unless new treatments are developed to decrease the likelihood of developing Alzheimer's disease, the number of individuals with Alzheimer's disease in the United States is expected to be 14 million by the year 2050.

There are also genetic risk factors for Alzheimer's disease. Most patients develop Alzheimer's disease after age 70. However, 2%-5% of patients develop the disease in the fourth or fifth decade of life (40s or 50s). At least half of these early onset patients have inherited gene mutations associated with their Alzheimer's disease. Moreover, the children of a patient with early onset Alzheimer's disease who has one of these gene mutations has a 50% risk of developing Alzheimer's disease.

Hospices:

 Death, Dying and Coping: Kubler-Ross

Denial:

Anger:

Bargaining:

Depression:

Acceptance:

Notes:

Timetable: There are certain patterns that correlate with when a person starts to mature: These are different for males and females when compared to average

Early Girls: Age of puberty \_\_\_\_

Characteristics:

Late Girls: Age of puberty \_\_\_\_

Characteristics:

Early Boys: Age of puberty \_\_\_\_

Characteristics:

Late Boys: Age of puberty \_\_\_\_

Characteristics:

Note: these are general characteristics and may not apply to all situations. There are things like temperament, environment, siblings, etc that influence behavior as well.

Identity: Discovery of the self, of who we are, is the main aspect adolescence.

Erikson Stage 5 identity vs. role confusion: We either find who we are and what we want to be or we become confused, lost and basically a mess

Marcia’s States of Identity: We all go through various states in our lives in which we search for our identity in a variety of things. These are measured by 2 things, **commitment** and whether you have **search**ed and checked out other possibilities.

Foreclosure:

Diffusion:

Moratorium:

Achievement:

You are going to be in different states of identity in different areas of your life.

Cognitive abilities:

Piaget: Formal Operations: Adolescents can think symbolically, hypothetically, and abstractly.

David Elkind: These new abilities lead to the adolescent going through a new sort of egocentrism based on their new abilities to think.

Personal Fable:

Imaginary Audience:

Invincibility Complex:

Kohlberg: Thinking abstractly gives us the ability to think on a higher moral level. However we don’t always do so even when we can.

Precoventional Reasoning:

1

2.

Conventional Reasoning:

1.

2.

Post Conventional Reasoning:

1.

2.

Critics of Kohlberg:

Carol Gilligan:

Examples of Reasoning: