

Fall 2019 Advanced Topics/400 Level Courses

Adv. Topics 830:431:H1 (honors) Adv Topics in Developmental Psychology

How the preschool mind shapes the adult mind

Professor Alan Leslie

Psychology Building A139 , TTH6 (5:00-6:20pm)

Prerequisites: 830: 305 (Jr/Sr, Honors Program or permission of instructor)

Humans have characteristic ideas that are basic ways of thinking about and experiencing the world. In everyday life, we take these ideas completely for granted. In this class, we'll examine whether and how these characteristic ideas are inbuilt and thus part of human nature. We will study some of the most powerful ideas: *objects, mechanical powers, numbers, agents, agents with faces, and agents with goals, 'theory of mind,' and moral actions*. Preschoolers use such ideas to organize early learning and as adults we still use them everyday. We'll be exploring these claims through experimental findings, theories, and controversies in the literature on early cognitive development.