

Infant & Child Development Lab
830:332:B1/B2 Summer 2012

Instructor:JananiPrabhakar

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Office:Tillett Hall, Room 317. Office hours by appointment

Course Room & Times:

Section B1: Tuesday & Thursday, 9am - 12:40pm; Tillett 205

Section B2: Tuesday & Thursday, 2:10pm – 5:50pm; Tillett 205

Course Objectives

This class will acquaint students with scientific research in the field of child psychology, in particular the methods used to design studies, collect, code, analyze, and interpret data, as well as present research results in a professional format.

Structure of the course

Throughout the course, students should adopt a scientist's approach to research experiences. The course is designed around three hands-on studies in child development to be conducted at the Douglass Child Study Center located in Douglass Campus. This requires 3 visits to the DCSC during the session/semester. You are responsible for your own transportation to the center. Timely attendance is absolutely crucial!

The course content progresses from simpler to more complex research designs and statistical analyses. Mirroring the progressive structure of the course content, the assignments slowly build APA report-writing skills and give the student increasing autonomy to use these skills in their writing. **You will have to write one full research report for the last research unit.** For the first two units, you will work with partners. Most of your assignments will be done in the lab, during class hours. Please use this time to learn from each other and to ask for my help too. For the third unit, you will work alone and you will be asked to apply what you learned so far in the course to demonstrate you know how to write a scientific APA style report.

Assignments

Assignments are submitted through Sakai in the assignments tab. Clearly title your file with your Last name followed by the paper section (e.g., Prabhakar_Peer_Method.doc). Evaluation of your work is based on content and on

proper use of APA format. Please review the information given in class, as well as on Sakai, to make sure you adhere to APA format.

A penalty of 1 point is assessed for overdue assignments for every day it is late, unless special arrangements are made at least 24 hours in advance.

Note on academic integrity: By participating in this course you will be accepting the principles defining academic integrity. Please familiarize yourselves with Rutgers' Policy on Academic Integrity: <http://teachx.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html>

Attendance and Participation

As the class is designed to give you experience with methodology in the field, and since you will be working with a partner, **your presence at all lab meetings is mandatory**. In all cases, an absence must be justified with written documentation from the Dean's office. Unexcused absences will be given a '0'. More than 1 unexcused absence results in a final grade deduction of one full letter grade. Three unexcused absences results in an automatic final grade of F. If you arrive more than 20 minutes after class has begun, this will be counted as an unexcused absence.

Please keep in mind that most coursework is done in class with a partner. If you do not show up to class, you are hurting your partner as well as yourself. Moreover, if you miss lab the week before the preschool visit, you will not know what to do with the children at the preschool. If you miss the day at the preschool, you will not have data to analyze the next week, and if you miss lab the week after the preschool, you will not have results to write about.

Because this is the summer session, I can not offer any make-up sessions. If there is a date you know you absolutely will not be able to attend, please notify me well in advance (at least two weeks beforehand, if not earlier), so that proper arrangements can be made and be sure to contact your partner to catch up on what you missed.

Grading Policy

Your final grade will be comprised of three components:

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| 1. Writing Assignments (11) | 50% |
| 2. Final, Full Lab Report (1) | 35% |
| 3. Attendance/Active Participation | 15% |

The grading scale is as follows:

A = 90% or above	B = 80-84%	C = 70-74%	F = 59% or below
B+ = 85-89%	C+ = 75-79%	D = 60-69%	

Extra Credit

Extra Credit will be given for participating in research studies that take place at Rutgers. Each study that you participate in will add one point to your final grade, up to a maximum of 3 additional points. Research participation opportunities will be announced in class. If you find research opportunities on your own, please discuss it with me so you can obtain the proper paperwork to get credit.

Course Website and Materials

All course materials, including all slides, APA and Stats help documents, assignments, special notices, and the most up-to-date syllabus, will be made available through Sakai. If you are properly registered for the course, you have access to the course website at <http://sakai.rutgers.edu> (log in with netID and password, click on Membership). Please check the website frequently for any announcements regarding syllabus changes, class cancellations, etc. It is each student's responsibility to remain current with all postings on the website.

Academic Integrity

As students and teachers, we are the guardians of knowledge for future generations. An implicit condition for your participation in this course is your acceptance of the principles defining academic integrity. Please familiarize yourselves with Rutgers' Policy on Academic Integrity, which includes cheating, fabrication (falsification), plagiarism, denying others access to information or material, and facilitating violations of academic integrity, which can be found at: <http://teachx.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html>

Anyone suspected of committing an act of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Disciplinary Committee; those found to have done so will, *at the very least*, receive a failing grade for the course. Rutgers' Official Policy on Academic Integrity

To help clarify, in this class you may consult outside sources (e.g., journal articles, books, internet) and other students when completing assignments provided that you appropriately cite them (e.g., provide complete references and referencing notation) in your written work. You may not turn in another student's work as your own, represent someone else's idea as your own, or work collaboratively on individual assignments.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Assignments	Due Date for Assignments
Tuesday, May 29	NO CLASS!		
Thursday, May 31	- Research Methods - Peer Interactions Intro & Methods	Important: <i>Read Fabes, et al. (2003) and Howes (1980) by class on <u>Tuesday, May 29th</u></i> <i>Assignment 1: Structure an APA Research report (5 points)</i> <i>Assignment 2: PI Methods Section</i>	<i>Assignment 1: Due by the end of class on <u>Thursday, May 31st</u></i> <i>Assignment 2: Due by midnight on <u>Tuesday, June 5th</u></i>
Tuesday, June 5	- Peer Interactions Observation	<i>Assignment 3: PI Introduction & References Section</i> Important: <i>Read Baren-Cohen, et al. (1985) by class on <u>Thursday, June 7th</u></i>	<i>Assignment 3: Due by midnight on <u>Thursday, June 7th</u></i>
Thursday, June 7	- Peer Interactions Results - Theory of Mind Intro	<i>Assignment 4: PI Results Section</i> <i>Assignment 5: Theory of Mind Methods Section</i>	<i>Assignment 4: Due by midnight due on <u>Tuesday, June 12th</u></i> <i>Assignment 5: Due by midnight on <u>Wednesday, June 13th</u></i>

Tuesday, June 12	- Theory of Mind Experiment at Preschool	<i>Assignment 6: Theory of Mind Introduction & References</i>	<i>Assignment 6: Due by midnight on <u>Friday, June 15th</u></i>
Thursday, June 14	- Theory of Mind Results	<i>Assignment 7: Theory of Mind Discussion Section</i>	<i>Assignment 7: Due by midnight on <u>Tuesday, June 19th</u></i>
Tuesday, June 19	- Executive Function Intro	<i>Assignment 8: Executive Function Methods Section</i>	<i>Assignment 7: Due by midnight on <u>Thursday, June 21st</u></i>
Thursday, June 21	NO CLASS	<i>NO CLASS</i>	<i>NO CLASS</i>
Tuesday, June 26	- Executive Function experiment	<i>Assignment 9: Executive Function Introduction & References Section</i>	<i>Assignment 9: Due by midnight on <u>Thursday, June 28th</u></i>
Thursday, June 28	- Executive Function analysis	<i>Assignment 10: Executive Function Results & Discussion Sections</i>	<i>Assignment 10: Due by midnight on <u>Tuesday, July 3rd</u></i>
Tuesday, July 3	- Executive Function Peer Reviews	<i>Assignment 11: Executive Function Final Paper</i>	<i>Assignment 11: Due by end of class on <u>Thursday, July 5th</u></i>
Thursday, July 5	Language Acquisition	<i>In-Class Assignment 12: tbd</i>	<i>Assignment 12: Due by the end of class on <u>Thursday, July 5th</u></i>