

INFANT AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (830:331:03) Spring 2014

(Syllabus may be revised during the semester – Please check back periodically)

Last Updated: Jan 22, 2014

Class Meeting: MTH 3rd Period, Lucy Stone A142, 12:00-1:20 pm

Instructor: Dr. Judith Hudson, jhudson@rutgers.edu

Office: 425 Tillett Hall, Livingston Campus

Office hours: Mondays 12:30-1:30 am AND by appointment

Teaching Assistant: Meng Zhang, meng.zhang0904@rutgers.edu

- Office hours: 319 Busch Psychology Bldg. W 11:30-12:30 and by appointment
- If you wish to review your exam then you must visit the TA during her office hours.

Read the syllabus all the way to the end. It contains important information. On the first day of class, please ask questions about anything you do not understand. Your continued enrollment in the course implies your understanding and acceptance of the information in the syllabus.

I. Required Course Materials:

1. **Kail, *Children and Their Development* (2011), 6th Ed**, Pearson Publishers. Available at New Jersey Books on Somerset Street in New Brunswick.
2. **MyVirtualChild (MVC):** An online, interactive simulation program to supplement course content
 - The copy of the textbook that is available from NJ Books includes access to MVC. **MyVirtualChild is a required online supplement for this class.**
 - If you purchase a copy of the text from another source, you will need to purchase access to MyVirtualChild for \$25 by going to www.myvirtualchild.com and clicking on the “buy access” link in the login section.
 - Your copy of MyVirtualChild must be registered with the course ID number. Further instructions for registering will be posted on the sakai web site.
3. **Articles.** Additional articles will be posted on sakai.

II. Learning Goals

The learning goals of this course contribute to the more general goals of the Department of Psychology and of the Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences:

1. Students will develop an understanding of the major themes and controversies that continue to shape research in infant and child development.
2. Students will be able to characterize the transitions that occur in the physical, cognitive, and emotional/social capacities of children over the course of infancy and childhood.
3. Students will be able to characterize major theoretical conceptions of childhood transitions and the research evidence supporting these.
4. Students will acquire practical knowledge of the behavioral capacities of infants and children and of major avoidable risk factors that can compromise normal development.

5. Students will use critical thinking, skeptical inquiry, and, when possible, the scientific approach to ask, answer and understand questions related to behavior and mental processes.

III. Class Web Site

- The class has a sakai website which you should have access to if you are enrolled in the course. This will be the most important way in which you get information outside of class.
- Lecture slides (which are only an outline of the material covered) will be posted on sakai before each class. I try to post slides at least a week before class, but sometimes I make changes to lecture material closer to the class date.
- MyVirtualChild (MVC) assignments will be posted on sakai on the Assignments 2 page. Please note the due dates and submit before then.
- Assigned articles in addition to the text readings will be posted in Resources section
- I will post review questions for the exam in the Resources section of sakai.
- Announcements will also be posted on sakai if there are changes to the schedule.

IV. Course Requirements

Exams

There will be three non-cumulative exams and cumulative final. Exam format is multiple-choice questions.

- I will post review questions for the exam on sakai. Review questions will cover the topics in the book or the lecture.
- Exam questions will come from material only covered in lecture, material only covered in the book, and material covered in both lecture and text.
- DON'T MISS EXAMS. In the case of extraordinary circumstances (hospitalization, death in the family) you will be permitted to take a make-up exam during Psychology department make-up hours (TBA) if you can provide documentation or a dean's note. Without acceptable documentation, you will get a zero.
- BE ON TIME FOR EXAMS. If you arrive after the first student has turned in an exam, you will not be admitted to the exam and will have to take a makeup.
- Makeup exams will consist of essay questions instead of multiple-choice questions.

MyVirtualChild

My Virtual Child (MVC) is an interactive web-based simulation that allows you to raise a child from birth to age 18 and monitor the effects of your parenting decisions over time. This engaging website lets you apply the key concepts that you are learning in class. And just like in real life, certain unplanned events will be presented to you.

- Your virtual child needs to be linked to our class, and I will check at how your child progresses. There are no "correct" and "incorrect" ways to raise your child, but I do expect you to think carefully about your decisions, the way you would if you raised a real child. Make sure that you meet the posted deadlines for "raising" your child – see schedule of assignments below.
- As you raise your child, you may find that the information you need to make some decisions has not been covered yet in class. Either read ahead in the text or make an uninformed decision and learn later what effect that may have had on your child's development.
- The MVC site includes some reflective questions; you are not required to submit responses on the MVC site, but you may find it useful to ponder these questions.

- There will be 3 essay assignments posted on the sakai site where you will reflect upon your child's development in relation to material covered in the class. Look for these in the Assignments 2 section of sakai. Each of the MVC reflective essays are worth 20 points.
- MVC essays **MUST** be submitted by the due date and time: no credit will be given for late submissions. Do **NOT** wait until the last minute to submit these. If you lose access to the Internet 15 minutes before the submission is due and are unable to submit on time, you will receive no credit for the assignment.
- Responses must be in your own words. Cutting and pasting material from MVC is considered plagiarism and appropriate penalties will be imposed (see academic integrity below).

Extra Credit Article Reviews

Three times during the semester, articles will be posted on sakai to be reviewed for extra credit. For each assignment, you will read one of the articles from the Extra Credit folder in Resources and write a review of the article by answering the questions on the Article Review Form (see sakai site). You will download the form, fill it out and submit it as a Word document to the Assignments page. Make sure you answer the questions completely, in paragraphs, not short sentences.

You may submit up to 2 article reviews for up to 10 points of extra credit for each review (maximum = 16 points). You must submit each review by the posted due dates. **LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** You will not be allowed to resubmit reviews.

V. Learning and Remembering the Material Covered in this Course

Reading

Preview the text and the additional articles before you begin reading. Skim first to understand the structure of the authors' presentation and formulate questions that interest you about the topics covered. Write your questions down, on paper, in your laptop, or on index cards. Then begin to read the chapter, reading for answers to your questions. Stop after every major section. Write (or type) any answers to your questions that you have found. Note any additional questions that you have. Take notes reviewing the major points of the section. Run up and down the stairs, go get a soda, take a health break. Then go on to the next section, using the same technique: read for answers, read for questions, record answers to your questions and major summary points.

You are not expected to fully understand the statistics and analyses reported in some of the articles, but try to read for the gist of what was found.

Make sure that you at least skim the assigned textbook chapters and articles before each lecture.

Class Attendance:

IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND CLASS REGULARLY, DO NOT TAKE THIS COURSE! The exams will stress the material that I present in class, and some material is not in the books.

Many classes will incorporate visual and video material that will illustrate important phenomena and research findings vividly. In general, these materials will not be available on-line.

I think of class attendance as the "easy" way to learn material; it is often easier to understand new information when someone explains it to you (and you can ask questions) than when you only read about it on your own. So help yourself to learn more easily by attending class regularly.

I recommend you look over the posted slides before lecture and bring a copy of them to class to take notes on. Three caveats about the slides:

1. The lecture slides are only outlines of the material to be presented and are meant to aid you in taking notes during class, and to remind you of what was covered in class. They are NOT substitutes for attending class.
2. Because I post the slides BEFORE the lectures, they are subject to change. I recommend that you check the sakai site periodically to make sure you have the most up-to-date version.
3. Despite my best efforts, sometimes the slides will contain typos; please be forgiving.

Preparing for Exams:

- Review your chapter questions and notes, review the PowerPoint slides, review your lecture notes.
- Go over the review questions posted on Sakai and make sure that you can answer them in your own words. If not, go back and review the relevant material.

10 tips for doing well in this class:

1. Come to every class and take good notes. If you do miss a class, get the notes from a classmate. I stress different topics in my lectures than those stressed in the readings. The material I stress in lecture tends to appear on exams.
2. Spend 10 minutes immediately after each lecture going over your lecture notes, reconstructing the lecture and making sure you understand the "key concepts" for the day.
3. Spend the 10 minutes before each lecture going over the lecture notes and "key concepts" from the previous class.
4. Make sure you at least skim the assigned readings before each class; even better, read the material completely.
5. If you don't understand something said in the lectures or in the readings, let me know. Ask a question in class or come to my office hours. Chances are if you are confused, others are too.
6. Use the posted slides, your lecture notes and the posted review questions to review for exams.
7. Form study groups and quiz each other on key concepts.
8. Keep track of the MVC assignments and complete them before each due date. The thinking you put into answering these questions will help you understand the material better, which will help you on exams.
9. Do not try to cram. The material in this course builds on itself, just like in a math or physics course. If you don't learn the material in the beginning of the course, you are going to be lost.
10. Do the extra credit assignments. You can always use extra points and the articles reinforce material covered in lecture and text.

VI. Important Course Information

Behavior in the classroom:

- Students are expected to behave in a manner that is conducive to learning in a lecture environment. Out of respect for those who are seriously participating in the course, I will ask students who engage in disruptive behaviors to leave my classroom.
- I really only want you in class if you are going to be paying attention, so please turn off your cell phone, and if you urgently need to have a conversation, or if you want to read the newspaper or do crosswords rather than be in class, you are free to do so, but go elsewhere.
- That means no texting, no chatting, and no Internet surfing or any other non course-related activity. To engage in these activities is disrespectful of the instructor and disruptive to other students. You can certainly refrain for a class period.

- If you find your attention drifting, think of a question you may have about the topic and ask it. Although every effort is made to make the lectures informative and engaging, you have a responsibility to make an effort to engage. Learning is not a passive activity!

Academic Integrity:

You are expected to be honest with yourself and fair to your fellow students. I will enforce the University's regulations on academic integrity, and I ask your individual assistance in reporting any suspected violations to me or to the Office of Student Conduct. The University's regulations are appropriately strict, so please read the regulations and potential consequences: [Rutgers policy on academic integrity](#)

Be especially careful to avoid inadvertent PLAGIARISM when responding to the MVC questions and completing the extra credit article review assignments:

1. If you copy something that is in print ANYWHERE (books, journals, popular magazines, on-line blogs, MyVirtualChild, lists etc.), you are plagiarizing.
2. Taking someone else's words and substituting a word here or there is still plagiarism.
3. Paraphrasing someone else's words but "borrowing" their line of argument and reasoning is plagiarism.
4. Plagiarism is stealing. Better to hand in something that is yours but not polished, than to hand in something that is perfect but stolen.
5. For more guidelines on plagiarism, see http://wire.rutgers.edu/research_plagiarism.html

VII. Final Grades

A total of 250 points can be earned in the class as follows:

Exam 1	50 points
Exam 2	50 points
Exam 3	50 points
Final Exam	60 points
MyVirtualChild essays	40 points
Total	250 points

Any extra credit points earned by completing the extra credit article review assignment (see above) will be added to the final point total. Final grades will be calculated based on points earned as follows:

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

If you need a certain average to stay in school, to keep financial aid, to get into graduate or professional school, or just to keep your parents off your back, attend ALL CLASSES, study actively, review frequently.... starting at the BEGINNING of the semester. Elaborative encoding, elaborative rehearsal, and distributed review of course material will lead to greatly improved retention of the material.... and decent grades.

VIII. Special Arrangements

If you are entitled to extended testing time or other testing accommodations provide me with the documentation from the Office of Disability Services, and I will work with them to arrange alternate administration of your exams. Identify yourself early in the term. If you wait until just before an exam, it is too late.

If things go horribly wrong in this course, other courses, or your life, the University has many resources to help you. The faculty and staff want you to thrive at the University and to succeed academically and socially. Ask for help as soon as you realize there is a problem. If you don't know what resources are available, I will refer you.

IX. Contacting the Professor

- You do not need an appointment to attend office hours. If I am not available for office hours, I will announce the change in class.
- Questions relating to the course should be asked in class – most students are interested and the answers are best shared.
- Do not email me about questions regarding class schedule, policies, and other information that is available on the syllabus or on sakai – it is a good idea to check before sending any email.
- If you have a personal issue, email is useful, but allow up to 2 days for an answer. I cannot answer students' email every day. If I don't get back to you in that time, email again; I do my best to keep up with email, but sometimes messages get overlooked when a lot come in at once. Please don't think that I am ignoring you.
- Any emails sent within 18 hours of the class may not get read before class period; keep it in mind.
- If it's a minor issue, ask me after class. I am often busy setting up before class, so that is not a good time to ask questions.
- Please remember to sign your emails (first and last name) and include an appropriate subject. Messages with no subject or with ambiguous subjects (e.g., "Hi!") will automatically be deleted. I don't know, nor will I expend any effort to find out, who strawberry@dotmail is.
- You also need to indicate in EVERY email WHICH CLASS and you are in, as I have 150+ students in several different classes. If you forget to indicate your name, or your class I am unlikely to reply.
- Remember, the TA will have the physical exams, so if you wish to see your exam, then you must visit the TA during her office hours.

Course Schedule of Lectures and Assignments

Note: Schedule subject to change. Check sakai site for announcements and schedule changes

Date	Lecture Topic	Chapter	Article	MVC completed	MVC Essay (sakai)	Article Review (extra credit)
23-Jan	Intro	1				
27-Jan	Themes & Theories	1				
30-Jan	Genetic Bases	2				
3-Feb	Prenatal	3	Schetter			
6-Feb	Birth and Newborn	3				
10-Feb	Growth & Nutrition	4				
13-Feb	Brain Development	4		8 mos.		
17-Feb	Exam 1	1-4				
20-Feb	Perceptual Development	5	Kelly et al.			
23-Feb	Motor Development	5				
	Emotions &					
27-Feb	Temperament	10				1*
3-Mar	Attachment	10		19 mos.		
6-Mar	Self	11			1	
10-Mar	Exam 2	5, 10, 11				
13-Mar	Piaget	6				
Break						
24-Mar	Information Processing	6, 7				
27-Mar	Core Knowledge	6,7	McCrink & Wynn	4 years		
31-Mar	Memory	7	Atance			2*
3-Apr	Language	9				
7-Apr	Language 2	9		7 years		
10-Apr	Exam 3	6, 7, 9				
14-Apr	Moral Development	12				
17-Apr	Genie					
21-Apr	No Class					
24-Apr	Prosocial/Aggression	12	Maccoby	11 years		
28-Apr	Gender	13				3*
1-May	Family/Parents	14				
5-May	Peers & Media	15	Harris	18 years	2	
May 8, 8-10 am	Exam 4	12-15				

* Although there are 3 due dates for extra credit article review assignments, **you may only submit 2 extra credit reviews.**