

Infant and Child Development (PSY 830:331) – Summer 2014

Monday & Wednesday 6pm – 10pm; LIV LSH - A142

Instructor

Dr. Vivian Hsu

Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 4:30pm – 5:50pm; Tillett Hall 329

Email: vhsu@rutgers.edu

Course Description/Learning Outcomes

This course will provide you with an overview of the field of infant and child development. We will be concentrating on the time period spanning from prenatal development to late childhood. The approach will emphasize recent research relevant to present day society. We will focus on a number of different areas (1) theories pertaining to cognitive development, (2) underlying processes in areas of physical, emotional, social, and language development, (3) consider the role of culture and environment on development, and (4) critically discuss applications of present day research.

Textbook and Additional Readings

Kail, R (2013). Children and their Development & My VirtualChild Access (included w/ new book purchase)

Course Content

Research: Hypothesis, Experiments, Correlations, Descriptive, Longitudinal, Cross-Sectional, Independent Variable, Dependent Variable, Confounding Variables, Ethics, Research Flaws

Human Development: Germinal, Embryo, Fetus, Teratogens, Childbirth, APGAR, Newborn Reflexes, Sensory Capabilities, Neuron and Brain Development

Cognitive Development: Piaget's Assimilation, Accommodation, Object Permanence, Infantile Amnesia, Vygotsky's Sociocultural Theory- Zone of Proximal Development, Scaffolding, and Private Speech, Language Development, Emotions, Temperament, Attachment

Psychological Theorists and Theories: Darwin, Freud, Erikson's Psychosocial Theory, Pavlov's Classical Conditioning, Skinner's Operant Conditioning, Piaget's Cognitive Developmental Theory, Vygotsky's Sociocultural Theory

Emotional Development: Emotions, Temperament, Attachment, Personality, In-Group vs. Out-Group Perception, Bandura's Observational Learning, Erikson's Stages of Social Development

Evaluation

Exams/Quizzes: There will be 2 midterm (online) and a final exam (in class) based on the text and lecture materials. Each exam is worth 100 points. Additionally, you will be given 10-point multiple choice online quizzes every week. I will count your highest scoring 8 quizzes for a total of 80 points. **Your maximum exam/quiz point total is 380 points.**

IMPORTANT!! Scheduled midterms/final exam will not be postponed unless you have spoken to me (in person) at least 24 hrs prior to the exam. Make-up exams will be essay format.

In-Class Article Discussion and Write-up: You will be learning how to use the library resources this semester by finding your own articles of interest that are pertinent to our current topics of discussion. You will be required to choose an article, correctly cite using APA standard, and write a short 2-paragraph critique (summary/modification) and follow-up questions for the researcher.

APA Standard Citation: Please see below for the correct APA format regarding your article. You **MUST** cite correctly to receive full credit (web citations are not acceptable). Notice the use of italics and punctuation. If you need more examples, the library has excellent resources and programs.

Last Name, First initial. (year). Title of the article. Title of the Journal, Volume, page #.

First paragraph: a brief take-home message (2-4 sentences) of your selected article. Make sure to include such things as the main research question and relevant results.

Second paragraph: how you would modify or enhance the research presented (2-3 sentences) in your selected article. For example, if you think that a different set of subjects/participants should have been included,

why and what would this change add to the research.

Follow-up questions: Given the article that you have chosen, ask the authors 2 follow-up questions that you would want them to address. For example, it could pertain to a further study proposal that you think would add to the research design.

Each critique is worth **10 points** and you are **required to complete 5 critiques** by the specified due dates (**total of 50 points**).

MyVirtualChild: We will utilize MyVirtualChild to review what we have learned throughout the course. You will submit a final paper discussing 2 major changes each that have happened to your child in the categories of physical, cognitive, and social development. **This is worth 50 points.**

Presentation: Each student will be required to present a topic of interest to them that is related to a topic we have learned about in class. You make work together in groups no larger than 4 people. Once your topic has been approved, you may sign up for one of three days at the end of the semester to present to the class. **This is worth 50 points.**

Extra Credit: There are two extra credit options available, each worth 2 points. You can submit a maximum of 2 extra credit assignments for a total of 4 extra credit points. Submissions into your Drop Box must be made on Sakai *prior* to the final exam and *points will be added to your final exam/quiz total.*

Comic/Cartoon Video– Find a comic or cartoon video (Youtube/Hulu) pertaining to a topic involving infant/child development. Write a *brief* (1 paragraph) summary explaining the concept presented and how it relates to what you have learned in class. Submit both comic and summary via Sakai under the Extra Credit Forum.

Experimental Project – Design an experiment that you would be interested in carrying out that pertains to a topic we have discussed. Write a 1-2 page summary explaining how you would carry it out and how it relates to what you have learned.