

## Infant & Child Development Lab

01:830:332:01 – Spring 2016

**TUESDAY 9:00 am – 11:40 am**

**Tillett 205**

**Instructor:** Meng Zhang

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*When you e-mail me, please add “Infant & Child Development Lab” in the title*

**Office Hours:** By appointment or after class in Tillett 205

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### COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course has been certified as satisfying four of the Writing and Communication Learning Outcome Goals of the SAS Core Curriculum. Specifically, students will be able to:

- Respond effectively to editorial feedback from peers, instructors, and/or supervisors through successive drafts and revision;
- Communicate effectively in modes appropriate to a discipline or area of inquiry;
- Evaluate and critically assess sources and use the conventions of attribution and citation correctly;
- Analyze and synthesize information and ideas from multiple sources to generate new insights.



The aim of this course is to acquaint students with scientific research in the field of developmental psychology. In particular, we will focus on:

- Methods and techniques related to research design
- Procedures of collecting and coding data
- Using statistics and statistical software to analyze data
- Interpreting the results of the analyses
- Professional writing of empirical papers in the field of Psychology

### STRUCTURE

Throughout the course, students should adopt a scientist’s approach to research experiences. The entire course focuses on Child Development and consists of three hands-on units in child development. The three hands-on units require visits to the Douglass Child Study Center (DCSC) located in Douglass Campus. Students are responsible for their own transportation to the DCSC and **timely attendance is absolutely crucial!**

The course content progresses from simple to complex research designs and statistical analyses. Mirroring the progressive structure of the course content, the assignments slowly build American Psychological Association (APA) report-writing skills and give the student increasing autonomy to use these skills in their writing.

### **Units:**

- Unit 1 (hands-on): Peer Interactions
- Unit 2 (hands-on): Theory of Mind
- Unit 3 (hands-on): Executive Function

### **WORKLOADS**

You will be given ample in-class time to work on assignments, quizzes, and lab report, but some out-of-class work is also expected.

Assignments: For each assignment, you will write 1 of the 4 main contributing sections of an APA style research report (introduction, methods, results, discussion) about the corresponding unit. All written assignments are submitted through Sakai in word file. Please clearly title your file with your name, the course unit, paper section, and the Assignment number (e.g., “Jack\_PeerIntroduction\_Assignment1.doc”). Your name(s) should be inside the file as well.

Quizzes: For each quiz, you will complete either multiple choice, cloze test, or short answer questions about research design, APA style, or specific report section.

Full Lab Reports: For the third hands-on units, you will be asked to submit a complete and polished APA style research report that demonstrates your ability to incorporate everything that you have learned. When preparing the lab reports or assignments, please review the appropriate standards (supplied during class and available on Sakai) and check your work to be sure it complies. The standards of APA-style writing should be constant point of reference during your completion of assignments or lab reports! Submit your lab report in word file.

**\*\*Academic Integrity:** By participating in this course you will be accepting the principles defining academic integrity. You are responsible for knowing and following standards of academic integrity in all of your work. Please familiarize yourself with Rutgers’ Policy on Academic Integrity: <http://teachx.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html>.

**All violations of academic integrity will be strictly enforced. Any student who plagiarizes will, at the very least, receive a failing grade for the course. Sharing written work with others in class and cite others’ work without proper citation are considered plagiarism.**

### **ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION**

**Attendance is required at all lab meetings.** In all cases, an absence must be justified with written documentation from the Dean’s office. Otherwise, it will be considered as an unexcused absence.

- One unexcused absence will deduct 5 points on participation scores.

- Two unexcused absences results in a final grade deduction of one full letter grade.
- **Missing more than two classes will result in an automatic “F” for the course.**
- **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 closely related. 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 any contribution to our data collection and analysis, and if you miss lab the week after the preschool, you will not know how to write the results.*

*\* No make-up classes. If there is a date you know you absolutely will not be able to attend, please notify me in advance (at least two weeks beforehand, if not earlier), so that proper arrangements can be made and be sure to contact another student to catch up on what you missed. **An excused letter does not excuse you from the assigned work.** You will have to make up the assignments if you are absent from class. **Missed assignments will be given a “0”.***

**Active participation** in the lab is *\*highly\** encouraged. Student participation can add greatly to your learning and enhance the experience for the whole class. It will be consistently noted and factored into your final grade.

## **GRADING POLICY**

- Evaluation of your work will be based on such factors as the quality and content, writing style, degree of thought and effort reflected, and adherence to APA format.
- **Late assignments and late lab reports will be assessed a penalty of one point per day** (e.g., a paper which would have been graded as a “15” will be reduced to an “13” if submitted 2 days late) unless special arrangements are made *in advance*.
- **Your final grade will be comprised of three components:**
  1. Writing assignments (7) 56%
  2. Quizzes (3) 15%
  3. Final Lab Report (1) 15%
  4. Attendance/Active Participation 14%

### Grading Scale

At the time the syllabus was created, a total of 100 points may be earned. Your total number of scored points (which are subject to change) will yield your final grade. The numerical grade translates to the letter grade as follows:

A = 90% or above  
 B+ = 85-89%  
 B = 80-84%  
 C+ = 75-79%  
 C = 70-74%

D = 60-69%

F = 59% or below

### **HELPFUL LINKS**

- Purdue Owl (more on APA style):  
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>
- Rutgers Learning Centers (provides academic coaching & writing assistance) -  
<http://lrc.rutgers.edu/>; 732-445-0986 (Busch), 732-932-1443 (CAC), 732-445-0986 (Livingston), 732-932-1660 (Cook/Douglass)
- Rutgers University Apps Server:  
<https://apps.rutgers.edu>
- Rutgers After-hours Escort – 732-932-7211 or use a campus emergency phone (blue light)

### **COURSE SCHEDULE**

| <b>Date</b>                       | <b>Topic</b>  | <b>Assignments</b>  | <b>Due Date</b>  |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Tuesday,<br>Jan. 26 <sup>th</sup> | Introduction to the course, the scientific method, and writing a research paper | Quiz 1:<br>Research Design and APA style<br><b>Reading:</b><br>Read Fabes, et al. (2003), Howes (1980), Rothstein-Fisch & Howes (1988) by class on <u>Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup></u> | Quiz 1: Due by <u>Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>, 11:59 pm</u>       |
| Tuesday,<br>Feb. 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | <b>Unit 1:</b> Peer Interactions (PI)<br>Introduction                           | Assignment 1: PI<br>Introduction & Reference<br>Section   | Assignment 1: Due by <u>Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>, 11:59 pm</u>  |
| Tuesday,<br>Feb. 9 <sup>th</sup>  | <b>Unit 1:</b> PI<br>DCSC observation   | Quiz 2: PI<br>Methods Section   | Quiz 2: Due by <u>Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>, 11:59 pm</u>       |
| Tuesday,<br>Feb. 16 <sup>th</sup> | <b>Unit 1:</b> PI<br>Results  | Assignment 2: PI<br>Results Section<br><b>Reading:</b><br>Read Baron-Cohen, et al. (1985) by class on <u>Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup></u>   | Assignment 2: Due by <u>Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>, 11:59 pm</u> |
| Tuesday,<br>Feb. 23 <sup>rd</sup> | <b>Unit 2:</b> Theory of Mind (ToM)<br>Introduction                             | Quiz 3: ToM<br>Introduction & Reference<br>Section  | Quiz 3: Due by <u>Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>, 11:59 pm</u>       |
| Tuesday,<br>Mar. 1 <sup>st</sup>  | <b>Unit 2:</b> ToM<br>Experiment at DCSC  | Assignment 3: ToM<br>Methods Section  | Assignment 3: Due by <u>Mar. 6<sup>th</sup>, 11:59 pm</u>  |
| Tuesday,<br>Mar. 8 <sup>th</sup>  | <b>Unit 2:</b> ToM<br>Results   | Assignment 4: ToM<br>Results & Discussion Section<br><b>Reading:</b><br>Read Zelazo (2006) by class on <u>Mar. 22<sup>nd</sup></u>  | Assignment 4: Due by <u>Mar. 13<sup>th</sup>, 11:59 pm</u> |
| Tuesday,<br>Mar. 15 <sup>th</sup> | <b>Spring Recess</b>  |   |  |
| Tuesday,<br>Mar. 22 <sup>nd</sup> | <b>Unit 4:</b> Executive Function (EF)<br>Introduction                          | Assignment 5: EF<br>Introduction & Reference<br>Section   | Assignment 5: Due by <u>Mar. 27<sup>th</sup>, 11:59 pm</u> |
| Tuesday,                          | <b>Unit 4:</b> EF   | Assignment 6: EF  | Assignment 6:  |

|                                   |                              |  |   |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|--|---|
| Mar. 29 <sup>th</sup>             | Experiment at DSCS           | Methods Section                                  | Due by Apr. <u>3<sup>rd</sup></u> ,<br><u>11:59 pm</u>                          |
| Tuesday,<br>Apr. 5 <sup>th</sup>  | <b>Unit 4:</b> EF<br>Results | Assignment 7: EF<br>Results & Discussion Section | Assignment 7:<br>Due by <u>Apr.</u><br><u>10<sup>th</sup></u> , <u>11:59 pm</u> |
| Tuesday,<br>Apr. 12 <sup>th</sup> | Wrap-up                      | Full Lab Report on EF                            | Final paper: Due<br>by <u>Apr. 24<sup>th</sup></u> ,<br><u>11:59 pm</u>         |
| Tuesday,<br>Apr. 19 <sup>th</sup> | Optional Q & A               |  |   |