

## INFANT AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**830:331:B6 - Summer 2016**

MW, 6:00-10:00 pm, 5/31/2016 – 07/08/2016

LSH-B105

**Instructor:** Meng Zhang

**Email:** [meng.zhang0904@rutgers.edu](mailto:meng.zhang0904@rutgers.edu)

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

**Office Hours:** By appointment, Room 317, Tillett Hall

*Please read the syllabus all the way to the end. Your continued enrollment in the course implies your understanding and acceptance of the information in the syllabus.*

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### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The course will provide an overview of research and theory in child development from 0 to 12 years. We will cover topics in physical development, perceptual and motor development, language and cognition, social and emotional development, peer and family relationships, effects of early experience, and the role of heredity and environment in development. The course emphasizes an understanding of important scientific methods, findings, and principles in child development, which apply to everyday life and to broader social policy.

### **COURSE STRUCTURE**

Class meets twice a week for lectures. I will assume that you have completed the reading assigned for each class meeting. The lectures will focus on central themes in the assigned reading but may also introduce relevant topics not covered in the readings. In-class discussion and films will supplement the lectures. Abbreviated lecture outlines will be available on the Sakai site before class.

## **TEXTBOOK**

**Keil, Psychological Development: The Growth of Mind and Behavior (2014), 1st Edition, Norton.**

The book is available from University Bookstore, NJ Books and online. Lowest price may be online rental from

<http://books.wwnorton.com/books/detail.aspx?ID=4294979658>. Click the drop down, and the 180 day rental price will be displayed. The looseleaf version will be available at New Jersey Books on Somerset Street in New Brunswick, and at the Barnes & Noble University bookstore.

## **WORKLOADS**

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

***Reading:*** You are required to read the corresponding chapters before each class. We will be covering two to three chapters per week. Keeping up with the reading is more critical and more challenging for summer session.

**Suggestions for reading and studying:** Before you read a chapter, flip through it, reading captions sections, reading explanations on some pictures and graphs that grab your attention, then go to the chapter summary and read it carefully. After you know what the chapter is about, start at the beginning and read through it. After reading each major section, summarize the main points, in your own words. If you haven't taken many other courses in psychology, writing down your summaries is likely to help you remember unfamiliar ideas and information. Ask yourself how those main points relate to material you have learned in other courses and how those main points relate to your experience or observations.

***In-class discussion:*** For each class, you will work with other students and discuss questions related to the topic of that day. This is important because by discussing the central or controversial questions in the field, you can understand the materials better and relates to materials you have learned in other courses, to your experience or observations.

Discussion questions can be proposed by the instructor or students. When you come up a good discussion question, you are encouraged to write the question and your name on the wiki tab on the Sakai site.

**Exams:** There will be THREE exams during the semester. Exams will cover lecture and book materials and will use a multiple-choice format. BE ON TIME FOR EXAMS. Please bring a #2 pencil to exams. An eraser is also a good idea. ABSOLUTELY NO CELL PHONES are allowed to be out or on during exams.

**Make-up exams:** There will be make-up exams ONLY for those who present a Dean's note within a week of the missed exam to the instructor.

### **ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION**

**Attendance is mandatory** because this is a very short, condensed summer class. You must attend the class to keep yourself up-to-date with everything we cover. In all cases (e.g., illnesses, car accidents, personal or family emergencies), 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 from the 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.**
- I expect people to be punctual and to not leave early.

**Active participation in the lab is STRONGLY 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**

Your final grade will be comprised of three components :

- Exam 1: 25%
- Exam 2: 25%
- Final Exam: 25%
- Attendance/Active Participation 25%

### **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

### **Extra Credit**

Students may earn up to 5 extra credit points. You can choose either of them or combine them. All extra credit assignments are due on August 5th, 2015 in your Drop Box on Sakai.

1. Article Summaries (out of class): Choosing one article from the reading or journal lists and write a short 1-paragraph (no more than 3-5 sentences total) critique. Specifically, It should include what you think the important take-home message is (1-2 sentences) and how you would either modify or enhance the research presented (2-3 sentences).

2. Comic/Cartoon Video– Find a comic or cartoon video (Youtube/Hulu) pertaining to a topic involving infant/child development. Write a brief (1-2 sentences) summary explaining the concept presented and how it relates to what you have learned in class (1 short paragraph).

3. Participating in psychology research studies that take place at Rutgers. Research participation opportunities will be announced in class. There may be other experiments that are not announced in class. Check with me before you do an experiment not on the class announcements so I can determine whether the experiment counts. When you speak with me, you will have to provide a printout that gives the name of the experiment, the experimenter or lab that is conducting the experiment, and the affiliation of the experimenter (e.g., Rutgers Psychology Department).

### **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://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml>. 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.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Week & Dates	Chapters in Keil's (2014) <i>Psychological Development</i>	Comments
1 W June 1 <sup>st</sup>	Ch.1 Approaching Psychological Development Ch.2 The Biology of Development	
2 M June 6 <sup>th</sup> W June 8 <sup>th</sup>	Ch.3 Coming to Perceive the World Ch.4 The Emergence of Action Ch.5 Coming to Understand the Physical World	
3 M June 13 <sup>th</sup> W June 15 <sup>th</sup>	Ch.6 Connecting with the Social World <b>Exam 1: Ch.1 to Ch.6</b> Ch.7 The Origins of Emotion, Temperament, and Personality Ch.8 Language Development	
4 M June 20 <sup>th</sup> W June 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Ch.9 The Growth of Knowledge Ch.10 The Growth of Cognitive Skills Skip Ch.11 <b>Exam 2: Ch.7 to Ch.10</b>	
5 M June 27 <sup>th</sup> W June 29 <sup>th</sup>	Ch.12 Morality in Thought and Action Ch.13 Knowing Ourselves, Knowing Others	
6 M July 4 <sup>th</sup> W July 6 <sup>th</sup>	Ch.14 Becoming Part of the Family Ch. 15 Becoming Part of the Community Ch. 16 Psychopathology in Childhood Final Exam: Ch. 12 to Ch. 16	

## Student-Wellness Services

### Just In Case Web App

<http://codu.co/cee05e>

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

### Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901/

<http://www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/>

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professionals within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

### Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 /

<http://www.vpva.rutgers.edu/>

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

### Disability Services

(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>  
The Office of Disability Services works with students with a documented disability to determine the eligibility of reasonable accommodations, facilitates and coordinates those accommodations when applicable, and lastly engages with the Rutgers community at large to provide and connect students to appropriate resources.

### Scarlet Listeners

(732) 247-5555 / <http://www.scarletlisteners.com/>  
Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.