

Infant & Child Development

01:830:331:B6 Summer 2013

Mon & Weds, 6pm to 10pm

Lucy Stone Hall, Room A142

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Sakai site: <https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal>

Required Text:

Berk, L. E. (2012). *Child Development* (9th edition). Pearson Publishers.

Course Objectives

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

Structure of the course

The course will be split into two sections, each followed by an exam (a midterm and a final). The exams reflect information covered in each section and are non-cumulative.

Because a lot of material will be packed into a short summer session, we will be covering a lot of material each day (most times, 2 chapters worth). Following lectures, there will be in-class assignments that you will finish in groups. These in-class assignments will count toward your participation grade. These assignments will vary depending on the lecture contents. Some sample assignments include reading and understanding journal articles, discussing theories, assessing research methodology and evaluating results.

Assignments

You will have to complete in-class assignments after lectures on each day of class. These assignments will differ based on the contents of the lecture. They will be completed in groups.

Attendance and Participation

Absences from class: Please note that missing a class will affect your participation grade since there are in-class assignments each day. This is a very short, condensed summer class, so attendance is absolutely necessary to not only make sure you are prepared for the exams, but also that you are up-to-date with everything that is covered. If you must miss a class, please e-mail the professor at least 24 hours in advance with a valid reason (note is required).

Missing an exam: You will be allowed to take a make-up exam if, within 1 week of the exam, you present a doctor's note or letter from your dean's office to the professor.

Grading Policy

Midterm (Chapters 1-7): 35 %

Final (Chapters 8-15): 35%

In-Class Assignments/Attendance: 30%

Exams will cover lecture and book materials and will be 50 multiple-choice questions. In-class assignments double as your attendance grade.

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.

Course Website and Materials

All course materials, including all lecture slides, 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://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

Tentative Course Schedule

Class	Date	Topic	Chapter(s)
1	Weds, May 29 th	Introduction to the course	
		History	1
		Research Methods	2
2	Mon, June 3 rd	Biological Foundations, Prenatal Development & Birth	3
		Infancy: Early Learning, Motor Skills, & Perceptual Capacities	4
		Physical Growth (The course of physical growth & brain development sections)	5 (first 2 sections)
3	Weds, June 5 th	Cognitive Development: Piaget & Vygotsky	6
4	Mon, June 10 th	Cognitive Development Perspectives: Core Knowledge & Conceptual Development	6
5	Weds, June 12 th	Cognitive Development Perspectives: Information Processing	7
6	Mon, June 17 th	Midterm	Ch. 1-7
7	Weds, June 19 th	Intelligence	8
		Language Acquisition	9
8	Mon, June 24 th	Emotional Development	10
		Self and Social Understanding	11
9	Weds, June 26 th	Moral Development	12
		Development of Sex Differences & Gender Roles	13
10	Mon, July 1 st	Family	14
		Peers, Media & Schooling	15

11	Weds, July 3 rd	Final	Ch. 8-15
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