

Psychology 830:331 INFANT AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT Spring 2015

Section 02: MTh, 12:00-1:20 pm, Tillett 232 and Section 05: MTh, 10:40-11:00 am, Tillett 232

Professor Judith A. Hudson
Office Hours: Mondays, 1:30-2:30 pm and by appointment, Tillett 425
Email: jhudson@rutgers.edu

Teaching Assistant: Alyssa McCarthy
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 9-10 am and by appointment, Busch Psychology Building A348
Email: alyssa.mccarthy@rutgers.edu

Please 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.

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 Format. Class meets twice a week for 80-minute 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 will also introduce new topics not covered in the readings. Films and class demonstrations will supplement the lectures. Abbreviated lecture outlines will be available on the Sakai site before class.

Required Course Materials

1. **Kail, *Children and Their Development* (2015), 7th Ed**, Pearson. Available at RU Bookstore. (*You may use an older edition of the textbook at your own risk of missing current material.*)
2. **MyVirtualChild (MVC)**: An online, interactive simulation program to supplement course content
 - **The copy of the textbook that is available from the RU Bookstore includes MVC access. If you purchase the textbook from the RU Bookstore, do NOT purchase MVC separately.**
 - If you purchase a copy of the text from another source, you must purchase access to MVC (\$33). (See instructions below under MyVirtualChild).
3. **Articles.** Additional articles will be posted on Sakai.

Exams

- Exams will use a multiple choice format. The first 3 exams are to be taken during regularly scheduled class times, as indicated in the schedule; the final exam will be cumulative.
- **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.
- 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

- **DON'T MISS EXAMS.** In the case of extraordinary circumstances (hospitalization, death in the family) you may take a make-up exam during one of the Psychology department make-up exam sessions (TBA) if you can provide documentation or a dean's note. REGIS reporting is not sufficient to warrant a make-up exam.
- If you know in advance that you must miss an exam for a legitimate reason (e.g., religious holiday), contact me at least one week before the scheduled exam to take the make-up exam.
- **MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL CONSIST ENTIRELY OF ESSAY QUESTIONS.**

Cancellation of Exams. If an exam must be cancelled due to an emergency, a department representative will be there to announce the cancellation. Anything else (e.g., a note on the board or door) does not count. Don't be fooled.

MyVirtualChild (MVC). 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. You will apply key concepts that you are learning in class. As in real life, unplanned events will be presented to you.

- Go to myvirtualchild.com to register. Click on "First Time User" and then "Register" to register with the access code that came with the text that you purchased from the RU Bookstore. If you purchased your text from a different source, click on "Get Access."
- Your virtual child needs to be linked to our class. When you login to your account after registering, you will answer a series of questions, you will receive the news that you are a proud parent, and you can name your child. **Type the Course ID, 14326, into the field provided** after you name your child and click **Submit**.
- There are no correct or incorrect ways to raise your child, but think carefully about your decisions, the way you would if you raised a real child.
- Use the suggested deadlines for "raising" your child on the schedule of assignments to make sure that you are keeping up.
- 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; **DO NOT submit responses on the MVC site.**
- There are 2 essay assignments posted on the Sakai site where you will reflect upon your child's development in relation to material covered in the class. Each reflective essay is 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. If you lose Internet access 15 minutes before the deadline and are unable to submit on time, you will receive no credit.
- **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 in the Extra Credit folder in Resources on Sakai to be reviewed for extra credit.

For each assignment, read one of the articles from the Extra Credit folder. Download the Article Review Form from Sakai and write a review of the article by answering the questions on the form 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 = 20 points). You must submit each review by the posted due dates. **LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** You will are not permitted to resubmit reviews.

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
<u>Total</u>	<u>250 points</u>

Points earned from the extra credit article review assignments will be added to the final point total.

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, and review frequently starting at the BEGINNING of the semester. Elaborative encoding, rehearsal, and distributed review of course material will lead to greatly improved retention and decent grades.

Attendance Policy

- It will be very difficult to earn a good grade in this course if you do not attend the lectures.
- As noted above (Course format), in the lectures I will elaborate on concepts from the readings, introduce new material, conduct demonstrations, and show videos. The exams will be based on all of this material, so regular attendance at the lectures will help you earn a higher grade.
- If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out about any information presented that day.

Academic Integrity. I will enforce the University's regulations on academic integrity, and I ask your assistance in reporting suspected violations to me or to the Office of Student Conduct. Be aware of 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:

- If you copy something that is in print ANYWHERE (books, journals, popular magazines, on-line blogs, MyVirtualChild, lists etc.), you are plagiarizing.
- Taking someone else's words and substituting a word here or there is still plagiarism.
- For more guidelines on plagiarism, see <http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>

Etiquette

- Please do not talk during lectures and films. Turn off your cell phone before class begins.
- I expect people to be punctual and to not leave early. If you must leave early, please do so quietly.
- Please try not to fall asleep. Have some caffeine, seriously.

Weather Alerts. If there is bad weather (e.g., snow or threat of snow), class may be canceled, even if the university remains open. If so, I will send an email to the entire class and post an announcement on Sakai. So if you suspect bad weather please check your email before coming to class.

Special Arrangements

If you are entitled to accommodations provide documentation from the Office of Disability Services and I will work with them to make appropriate arrangements. Please identify yourself early in the term.

If things go horribly wrong in this course, other courses, or your life, Rutgers has resources to help. The faculty and staff want you to thrive 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.

Contacting the Professor and the TA

- You do not need an appointment to attend office hours; you can just show up.
- Do not email us 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.
- Allow up to 2 days for an answer to email. If we don't get back to you in that time, email again; We do our best to keep up with email, but messages may get overlooked when many come in at once.
- Any emails sent within 18 hours of the class may not get read before class period; keep it in mind.
- For quick questions, ask the professor after class. I am often setting up before class and cannot give you my attention.
- Please sign your emails (first and last name) and include an appropriate subject. Messages with no subject, with ambiguous subjects (e.g., "Hi!") or with no signature will automatically be deleted.
- Indicate in EVERY email WHICH CLASS you are in; we have 400+ students in several classes.
- The TA has the physical exams, so you must visit the TA during her office hours to review exams.

Schedule of Lecture Topics and Assignments

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

Date	Lecture Topic	Reading Assignment (Articles are posted on Sakai)	MVC	MVC Essay Due	extra credit Article Review
22-Jan	Introduction to Class				
26-Jan	Themes & Theories	Ch 1			
29-Jan	Genetic Bases	Ch 2			
2-Feb	Prenatal Development	Ch 3, Glynn & Sandman (2011), doi: 10.1177/0963721411422056			
5-Feb	Birth & the Newborn	Ch 3			
9-Feb	Growth & Nutrition	Ch 4			
12-Feb	Brain Development	Ch 4	8 mos.		
16-Feb	No Class – President's Day				
19-Feb	Exam 1				
22-Feb	Perceptual Development	Ch 5, Anzures et al. (2013), doi: 10.1177/0963721412474459			
26-Feb	Motor Development	Ch 5, Adolph et al., (2014) doi: 10.1177/0963721413498895			1*
2-Mar	Emotions & Temperament	Ch 10	19 mos.		
5-Mar	Attachment	Ch 10			
9-Mar	Development of the Self	Ch 11		1	
12-Mar	Exam 2				
23-Mar	Cognitive Development	Ch 6			
26-Mar	Cognitive Development	Ch 6	4 yrs.		
30-Mar	Academic Skills	Ch 7			2*
2-Apr	Memory Development	Ch 7, Bauer & Larkina (2014), doi: 10.1080/09658211.2013.854806			
6-Apr	Language Development	Ch 9	7 yrs.		
9-Apr	Language Development	Ch 9, Tamis-LeMonda et al. (2014), doi: 10.1177/0963721414522813			
13-Apr	Exam 3				
16-Apr	Moral Development	Ch 12,			
20-Apr	Prosocial Behavior & Aggression	Ch 12, Hamlin (2013), doi: 10.1177/0963721412470687			
23-Apr	Gender Identity	Ch 13	11 yrs.		
27-Apr	Family & Parents	Ch 14		2	
30-Apr	Peer Relationships	Ch 15, Harris (1995), doi: 10.1037/0033-295X.102.3.458			
4-May	Media Influences	Ch 15	18 yrs.		3*
7-May, 8-10 am		Final Exam Section 02			
11-May, 8-10 am		Final Exam Section 05			

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