

PY245: Infant/Toddler Development

Winter 2009
TR 3:00-4:40PM
167 Gries Hall

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Office Hours: T 2-3pm, W 2-4pm,
F 11am-12pm

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336 Gries Hall

Office Hour: T 12-1pm

Readings

Gross, D. (2007). *Infancy: Development from Birth to Age 3*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

Articles for presentations

Grading

3 Exams (100 pts each): 300 pts
Research Paper: 75 pts
Research Presentation: 50 pts
Presentation Quiz: 25 pts
In-class Activities: 50 pts

A	93-100%	C	73-76%
A-	90-92%	C-	70-72%
B+	87-89%	D+	67-69%
B	83-86%	D	63-66%
B-	80-82%	D-	60-62%
C+	77-79%	F	< 60%

Disability Services: If you have a need for disability-related accommodations or services, please inform the Coordinator of Disability Services in the Disability Services Office at 2001 C. B. Hedgcock (227-1700). Reasonable and effective accommodations and services will be provided to students if requests are made in a timely manner, with appropriate documentation, in accordance with federal, state, and University guidelines.

Course Goals

The primary goal of this course is to introduce you to the psychological study of infancy and toddlerhood, beginning with conception and ending at approximately age 3. The course will deal with many aspects of development in this age range, including conception, prenatal development, physical, neurological, motor, and perceptual development. It will also focus on cognitive development, including language, learning, memory, & reasoning. We will also explore social development, including such topics as parent-child attachment, effects of maternal employment, and sex-role development.

Course Expectations

I expect you to keep up to date on the readings. The textbook constitutes a significant portion of the course material. Because of the broad scope of the field of infant development, it is not possible to cover all of the material in class. Lectures are intended as supplements to & elaborations on the readings.

You are strongly encouraged to attend class. Consistent absences will likely affect your grade in two ways. First, you are responsible for material covered in class. Not all material covered in class will be in your readings. ****If you must miss a lecture, it is your responsibility to get the lecture notes from another student in the class.**** Second, there will be group activities and discussions at many of the class meetings, which will count towards your grade.

There will be an emphasis on discussion in this course. Some of the material that we will be discussing may be of a personal or sensitive nature, and people will have diverse opinions on these topics. Please show respect for the other students in the class and listen to and consider their ideas. Remember, however, that *respectful* disagreement can be helpful to liven up a discussion.

Exams & Assignments

Exams: There will be three exams, with multiple-choice, short-answer, & essay questions. All exams will be closed book. Exams will emphasize material covered in the lectures and discussion, but may cover material from any section of the course (videos, etc.). To do well on these exams, you need to understand the concepts, theories, terms, controversies, & findings presented in readings & class. You must be able to apply this knowledge. Regular class attendance, good note-taking, preparing for discussions, keeping up-to-date on your reading, & actively participating in discussions will help you prepare for the exams.

Research Presentation & Paper: You will work alone or in pairs to present the research on a topic in Infant/Toddler development. You must run your primary source by me by 2/12 so I can approve it. Your presentation should be approximately 20 minutes; accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation. You will also write a 3- to 4-page paper on your topic. This paper will be done individually. For more details, see WebCT.

Presentation Quiz: There will be a quiz on the day of the final covering the presentations.

In-class Activities: There will be several in-class activities, which will vary in what they entail. These activities will be graded as "satisfactory" or "unsatisfactory", and your final in-class activity grade will be based on the percent of these projects on which you received a "satisfactory" grade. *You will not be able to make up these activities.*

Extra Credit: You can earn up to 10 points by finding examples of infant/toddler development in everyday life. If you see anything in the media (TV, WWW, newspapers, magazines, movies, comic strips) or in your day-to-day life that is related to child psychology, you may submit it with a 1-page write-up in which you summarize the example & compare it to the course material. Each is worth up to 5 points.

Course Policies

- ***You must keep copies of all assignments until final course grades have been posted.***
- You must submit all of your assignments through the Assignment Dropbox on WebCT.
- If you have a serious problem that affects your performance in class, please contact me immediately. I can do much more to help you if you let me know what is happening before you miss deadlines.
- Laptops may be used as long as you are not distracting other students.
- Cell phones must be put on silent.

Academic Dishonesty: ***No sort of academic misconduct will be tolerated in this course.*** You are required to be familiar with the University Student Code on Academic Dishonesty (<http://webb.nmu.edu/dso/SiteSections/OurServices/HandbookSection2.shtml#section2subsection3>). The expectation is that the work you submit will reflect your individual efforts (with the exception of any group work for the presentations).

Students who violate the policy will receive a zero on the assignment or test, and in most cases will receive a failing grade in the course. There will be no provisions for making up or revising the assignment or test. All incidents of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students. See the Writing Guidelines link on WebCT for a more specific description of what constitutes plagiarism. *When in doubt, ask!*

Late Assignments: All assignments should be turned in by the due date. Assignments will lose five percentage points for each 24 hours that they are late.

Make-up Examinations: Exam attendance is mandatory. Make-up examinations will be given at my discretion, and will only be allowed in the case of a serious & unavoidable problem, such as confining illness (documentation from a professional person required – e.g., physician, psychologist) or family emergency. You must contact me before the time of the exam to schedule a time for the make-up exam. If I am unavailable, leave a message at my office or on email.

Incompletes: Incompletes will be granted only in rare cases, and must be requested IN WRITING before the final. If an incomplete is granted, you have one year to complete the required work, as per University policy.

Note: Schedule subject to change.

Week	Date	Day	Topic	Readings/ Assignments
1	Jan 13	Tues	Introduction	Syllabus
	Jan 15	Thurs	Historical Perspectives on Children and Childhood	Chapter 1
2	Jan 20	Tues	Research Methods	Chapter 2
	Jan 22	Thurs	Genetics, Conception, and Prenatal Development	Chapter 3
3	Jan 27	Tues	cont'd	
	Jan 29	Thurs	Birth and the Newborn	Chapter 4
4	Feb 3	Tues	cont'd	
	Feb 5	Thurs	Exam 1: Chapters 1 – 4	
5	Feb 10	Tues	Physical Growth, Health, and Nutrition	Chapter 5
	Feb 12	Thurs	cont'd	Topic due
6	Feb 17	Tues	Sensation, Perception, and Motor Development	Chapter 6
	Feb 19	Thurs	cont'd	
7	Feb 24	Tues	Cognition, Learning, and Intelligence	Chapter 7
	Feb 26	Thurs	cont'd	
8	Mar 3	Tues	SPRING BREAK	
	Mar 5	Thurs	SPRING BREAK	
9	Mar 10	Tues	Language and Communication	Chapter 8
	Mar 12	Thurs	cont'd	
10	Mar 17	Tues	Exam 2: Chapters 5 – 8	
	Mar 19	Thurs	Relationships and Social Development	Chapter 9
11	Mar 24	Tues	cont'd	
	Mar 26	Thurs	Temperament, Emotions, and The Self	Chapter 10
12	Mar 31	Tues	TBA (potentially out of town)	
	Apr 2	Thurs	TBA (potentially out of town)	
13	Apr 7	Tues	Child Care and Early Intervention	Chapter 11
	Apr 9	Thurs	Music, Media, and Computers	Chapter 12
14	Apr 14	Tues	Exam 3: Chapters 9 – 12	
	Apr 16	Thurs	Presentations	Skim articles
15	Apr 21	Tues	Presentations	Skim articles
	Apr 23	Thurs	Presentations	Skim articles
Finals	Apr 27	Mon	2-3:50pm; Presentations + Quiz	Skim articles; Paper due