

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

Cognition & Language: Birth to Eight
15:290:522:90

Fall 2011
Draft 5/1/11

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Text: Piaget, J. & B. Inhelder (1966/69). The psychology of the child.
NY: Basic Books.

Overview

This course contributes to Masters and Doctoral programs, to the ISIS Certificate Program, and to the P-3 Early Childhood Endorsement approved by the State of New Jersey and offered by Rutgers University. We will consider research evidence and theory concerning neurological, cognitive and language development during infancy and the preschool years within the framework of affective development and social interaction as well as evidence for effects of various risk and handicapping conditions and intervention strategies.

Your participation in posting and commenting on the web site are critical to success.

Course Goals

1. Develop an understanding of the theoretical frameworks that inform our knowledge of language and cognitive development.
2. Understand relationships between development, risk, and disability in children birth to age 8.
3. Recognize developmental processes and accomplishments in direct observation of children in the family and in a group setting.
4. Formulate approaches to enhancing children's development.
5. Learn to interpret, critique, and summarize research literature in these areas of development.

Course Requirements

1. **Notes/questions and discussions of assigned readings and responses to others' posts (25%)**. Each day (when there are readings) make some comments or raise some questions in a posting about the readings. Use about one half page. **Post your comments on e-college by midnight the day before they are due**. Check in and post in response to other students' comments. This is not supposed to be a chore but an intellectual playground.
2. **Critical abstract (15%)** of a research article--**Due TBA**. Type the reference to the article in APA style at the top of your paper. Your article should be recent and include study of children with a disability. You will read and comment on abstracts by your group. An APA guide will be part of doc sharing.
3. **Observations (30%)**: Many students mention this as one of their finest educational experiences.

Post notes about your observations weekly as they occur.

Beginning by week 3 I expect at least one observation posted per week. They can be in either category.

A. Infants or toddlers. Approximately 4-5 observations should be made, each between 30 and 60 minutes long, spread over the weeks of the class. **Please note child's age and pseudonym on each observation**. These observations should ideally take place in the baby's home. The most useful age is birth to 24 months. Your role is as a participant observer, interacting normally while focusing primarily on the baby. You should not take notes during the observation, but write your impressions very soon afterward.

B. Young Children in a Group Setting, preferably a classroom. 6-8 hours of observations spread across at least 4 visits. **Please note child's age and pseudonym on each observation**. For the group observation, please choose an individual child and observe the **same child** in all visits. Your role is dependent on what the teacher prefers. You should not take notes during the observation, but write your impressions very soon afterward.

A summary/reflection on one of these experiences is due TBA.

This paper should be fairly short. It refers to one of your two observation experiences. Think through the experience in relation to material learned in the class and try to find a theme or focus for your thoughts about the child in this setting that strikes you as interesting. Use the theme to make a **catchy title**. Write about your experience bringing in examples from your visits. You may cite readings from the class or from outside reading, but this is not necessary. Are

there ways in which the observation experience changed your view of children, families, classrooms, etc?

4. Term paper (30%). Due TBA Papers should be between 2500 and 3000 words in length. Number the pages of your paper and give it an interesting title. References should be in APA style and include everything cited. Please make use of some recent journal articles, although for some topics older articles are important. Please make up a page including a 150 word abstract and 2 typed references to articles you read for your paper. You will be posting papers and abstracts on the class web site.

Topic due TBA. Paper topics should be discussed with and approved by the instructor. **Please type your topic and a list of references thus far.**

Class: **Topic and assignments**

1. Theory and Sensorimotor development
 - Piaget & Inhelder (1969) The Psychology of the Child. (Ch 1, Sec. 1-4)
 - Decarie (1969)
 - Hakke & Somerville (1985)

2. Theory and real Life
 - Thelen (2005)
 - Leherer (2008)

3. Fetal and Neurological Development and the Long Term
 - Johnson (1997)
 - DiPietro et al. (2004)
 - Brain Websites

4. Perception and Early Cognitive development
 - Gottfried , Rose & Bridger (1977)
 - Quinn (2005)
 - Rovee - Collier & Boller (1995)

5. Attention and Autism
 - Ruff & Rothbart (1996) Chap 3
 - Corkum & Moore (1998)
 - Liberti (2010)
 - Nadel et al(2007)
 - Blane (2008)
 - Autism Websites

ABSTRACT/CRITIQUE DUE

6. Infancy: learning about the world
Vygotsky (1978) Chapter 6
McCune & Ruff (1985)
McCune (2008) Chapter 4
7. Symbolic Development/Play & language
Piaget & Inhelder, Ch. 3
Vygotsky, Ch 7
McCune (1995)
McCune (1986) (optional)
McCune & Forsys (1986) (optional)
Guitierrez-Solano (2010)
8. Language I
Fraiberg (1977)
Dore et al (1976)
McCune et al. (1996)
Starkey (1980)
Zeng & Goldin-Meadow (2002)

Term Paper Topic Due

9. Cognitive Development
Piaget & Inhelder, Ch. 4
Kamii (2004)
Starkey (2004)
10. Language II
de Villiers & de Villiers (1978) or (2010)
McCune (2008) Chapter 5
Asifa, Bowerman, et al. (2004)
11. Environmental and Maturational Effects on Development
O'Connor et al. (2000)
Burchinal, et al. (2000)
Think About Haitian children!
12. Risk and Intervention
Ruff and Rothbart (1996) Chapter 11
Chiappe et al. (2002)
Paul (2003)

Term Papers Due at Midnight

13. Term paper Discussion
14. Language III : Bilingualism
 - Crawford (2000)
 - Fierro-Cobas (2001)
 - Vihman & McLaughlin (1982)
 - Johnson & Newport (1989 [1993])

Observation Reflection Papers due

15. Observation Report Discussion

Description: Quantitative Research Article Abstract/Critique

This assignment will provide an opportunity to critically read a research article and to succinctly discuss the study's strengths and weaknesses. Therefore, each critique should be approximately 2 pages, double spaced, 12 point font. Please report on an article that includes infants or young children with disabilities as participants.

Components of Your Paper:

1. Please put your article's reference at the top of the page.

The reference should be according to APA guidelines. An example of APA style is at the bottom of this assignment sheet.

2. Components of your paper:

1. a brief description of the literature upon which the study was based
2. the researcher's hypotheses or research questions
3. the methodology, which includes:
 - i. a description of the participants, including the number of participants in the study and how they were selected
 - ii. the procedures used by the researcher: what the researcher did and how they did it
4. the results of the study, including numerical results and significant figures
5. the researcher's conclusions

6. your own critique of the study. Consider the value of the study, potential threats to the validity of the study and future directions for research and application
3. Please attach a pdf copy of the article you have critiqued.
4. You will post your abstract critique on the course site for the benefit of the class.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

**The University Code of Student Conduct can be accessed at:
<http://rci.rutgers.edu/%7Epolcomp/judaff/ucsc.shtml>**

**For information on the academic integrity policy, please go to:
<http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~polcomp/integrity/policy.shtml>**

**A multimedia presentation on plagiarism can be found at:
<http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~polcomp/integrity/realifeexamples.html>**

Related regulations may also be found in the Rutgers Graduate School of Education Catalog.

For any and all assignments and class activities, papers, field projects, PowerPoints, and any other class related work, no copying of any kind is allowed, unless copied text is placed within quotations and author/source is appropriately cited.

APA Style info

Example of APA format for a journal article:

Gottfried, A., Rose, S., & Bridger, W. (1977). Cross-modal transfer in human infants. *Child Development, 48*, 118-123.

For APA style for citing other types of publications see:

- 1) <http://webster.commnet.edu/library/index.htm>

2) Libraries and College Publications

3) APA Style Sheet prepared by Ellina Chernobilsky (appears in general doc sharing)

References for 290:522
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