

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY  
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION  
RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

Cognition & Language: Birth to Eight: 15:290:522  
Fall 2012

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

Books are available at The Rutgers Bookstore and Online Sources. Other readings are available electronically on the ecollege course support site.

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 active participation is critical to success.**

Course Requirements

1. **Weekly notes/questions and discussions of assigned readings and (25%)**. I expect each student in class to read the assigned readings for each class and be prepared to actively participate in online discussions.

Each week post some comments and questions about the readings and other sources regarding the topic of the week. Use one half to one page for each reading, or integrate your comments and make the post a bit longer. **Post your comments by midnight the day they are due.** Post your own comments first, then react to some others' posts.

2. **Critical abstract (15%)** of a research article, **approximately 1,000 words in length--Due 10/12.**  
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. See attached the reference list for examples of APA style.

3. **Observations (30%):** Many students mention this as one of their finest educational experiences. **Post notes about your observations weekly as they occur. I expect weekly posts beginning by week 3 (week of 9/17) and continuing until you have completed all observations.**

A. Infants or toddlers. Approximately 6 weekly observations should be made, each between 30 and 60 minutes long. **Please note child's age and pseudonym on each observation.** These observations should ideally take place in the baby's home. The ideal 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. Approximately 8 hours of observations spread across at least 4 visits. Ideally this should be a preschool or K-3 classroom. If this is not possible we can discuss other possibilities. **Please observe the same child at each visit. Note child's age and pseudonym on each observation.**

**A summary/reflection on one of these experiences is due December 7.**

4. **Term paper (30%). Due Nov. 16** About 3,000 words in length reviewing a topic of your choice. Number the pages of your paper and give it an interesting title. References should be in APA style. Please make use of recent 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.

Paper topics should be discussed with and approved by the instructor. **Please post your topic and a list of references thus far by October 26.**

## 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.

Cognition & Language: Birth to Eight: 290:522  
Fall, 2012

Weekly Topic:                      Topic and Assignments   Comments due by Midnight

1. 9/4            Theory and Sensorimotor development  
Piaget & Inhelder (1969) *The Psychology of the Child*. (Ch 1, Sec. 1-4)  
Decarie (1969)  
Hakke & Somerville (1985)
  
2. 9/10           Theory and real Life  
Thelen (2005)  
Vygotsky (1978) Chapter 6  
Leherer (2008)
  
3. 9/17           Fetal and Neurological Development and the Long Term  
Johnson (1997)  
Vygotsky (1978). Mind & Society. Ch.6  
DiPietro et al. (2004)  
**Brain Websites**
  
4. 9/24           Perception and Early Cognitive development  
Gottfried , Rose & Bridger (1977)  
Quinn (2005)  
Rovee - Collier & Boller (1995)
  
5. 10/1           Attention and Autism  
Ruff & Rothbart (1996) **Chap 3** (Chapter 11 is for a later week)  
Corkum & Moore (1998)  
Nadel et al(2007)  
Blane (2008)  
**Autism Websites**
  
6. 10/8           Infancy: learning about the world  
McCune & Ruff (1985)  
McCune (2008) Chapter 4

**10/12 Midnight ABSTRACT/CRITIQUE DUE**

7. 10/15          Symbolic Development/Play & language  
Piaget & Inhelder, Ch. 3  
Vygotsky, Ch 7  
McCune (1995)  
McCune (1986) (optional)  
Guitierrez-Solano (2010)

8. 10/22 Language I  
Fraiberg (1977)  
Dore et al (1976)  
Chapman (2007)

### **10/26 Term Paper Topic Due**

9. 10/29 Cognitive Development  
Piaget & Inhelder, Ch. 4  
Kamii (2004)  
Starkey (2004)
10. 11/5 Language II  
Stark (1978)  
McCune (2008) Chapter 5  
Asifa, Bowerman, et al.
11. 11/12 Environmental Effects  
O'Connor et al. (2000)  
Burchinal, et al. (2000)  
Chiappe et al. (2002).

### **11/16 Term Papers Due at Midnight**

### **11/19 Thanksgiving Week**

12. 11/26 Risk and Intervention  
See the Webliography: Early Intervention in New Jersey  
Special Education Law in New Jersey  
Ruff and Rothbart (1996) Chapter 11 (Optional)  
Tymms & Merrill (2011)  
Roberts et al., 2008
13. 12/3 Term paper Discussion
14. 12/10 Language III : Bilingualism  
Crawford (2000)  
Fierro-Cobas (2001)  
Vihman & McLaughlin (1982)  
Johnson & Newport (1989 [1993])
15. 12/17 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 1,000 words (1200 or more and you will be asked to revise). Please report on an article that includes infants or young children with disabilities as participants.

### **How to Post Your Paper**

You will find a place under "Course Home" to post your abstract/critique. Please save your paper using a filename beginning with your last name: israelabstract.docx for example. Save your article pdf similarly: israel article.docx. I will be saving these to my desktop for review and using track changes to provide comments. I need your names in the file names to keep them straight.

### **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:

- a.) a brief description of the literature upon which the study was based
- b.) the researcher's hypotheses or research questions
- c.) 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
- d.) the results of the study, including significant figures
- e.) the researcher's conclusions
- f.) 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 copy of the article you have critiqued.

- 4.) Please bring 3 extra copies of your **abstract/critique** to share with other students.

### **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.comnet.edu/library/index.htm>
- 2) Libraries and College Publications
- 3) APA Guide

## References **To be updated!**

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