

**Fall 2013**

**Introduction to Child Psychology: Infancy through Adolescence (15:295:512:01)**

**Class Meets: Wednesday, 4:50-7:30**

**Murray 113**

Instructor: Hebbah El-Moslimany

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Office Hours: by arrangement (contact me via email to set up an appointment), also I encourage you to contact me via email with any questions and concerns

Website: [www.sakai.rutgers.edu](http://www.sakai.rutgers.edu)

Required Textbook: Lightfoot, C., Cole, M. & Cole, S. (2013). *The development of children, 7<sup>th</sup> ed.*, New York: Worth Publishers (abbreviated as LCC on syllabus)

This is available at the Rutgers University Bookstore, New Brunswick.

\*Additional readings will be found on Sakai

### **Course Description:**

This is an introductory course in child development. We will explore the development of the child from birth through adolescence through an examination of topics in children's physical, social, emotional and cognitive functioning. This is a survey course but special consideration will be given to issues relevant to education and counseling within school settings. These include; the distinction between learning and development, the long term effects of early experience, and the role of context and culture in development. The approach taken here will be interdisciplinary, drawing upon psychology, sociology, anthropology and the biological sciences. Readings will include secondary source materials (e.g., the textbook), primary source materials (some research articles from refereed journals) and occasionally some popular press items.

### **Course Requirements and Grading:**

Students will be required to complete a number of assignments over the duration of the course. You may earn a total of 100 points based on your performance on the criteria listed below.

Drawing upon the expectations described above, the course grade will be based upon the following:

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| 1. Attendance, group work, and participation in class discussions | 15 |
| 2. Collaborative problem solving activities (3 @ 15 pts. each)    | 45 |
| 3. Final Project  | 40 |

## What is expected of you?

1. **Attendance, group work, and discussions.** To receive full credit you are expected to attend each class, to arrive on time and stay for the whole class, to have completed the assigned reading, and to participate in group work and class activities.
2. **Read assignments from the textbook as well as supplemental articles.** You should complete reading assignment by the date specified for the topic. [For example, the topic for September 4 is, “foundations of development.” The assigned reading is Chapter 1 from the textbook by Lightfoot, Cole and Cole (LCC). Complete all the readings assigned for this topic by September 4].
3. **Collaborative problems and related discussion.** Students will be assigned to small groups. The instructor will provide problems to the groups. Drawing upon the reading and prior discussion, each group will be asked to discuss the problem and to generate a written response. (Further details about the collaborative problem work will be presented later.) There will be three collaborative problems. Everyone is expected to make constructive contributions on each problem, and help write up the solution to the problem.
4. **Final Project.** Each student will complete a final project. This will be done individually, rather than in a group. You will choose between one of two options for the project. Further details can be found on the sakai site.

Option 1: Environmental Analysis-Identify a specific environment in your world and discuss the degree to which it supports or enhances human development.

Option 2: Video Analysis- Analyze a series of video taped segments of young children’s mathematical problem solving in their classroom making use of concepts discussed in the class.

### **Policies:**

#### *Attendance*

Attendance of all classes is required in accordance with the university attendance policy. An attendance sheet will be passed around each class, please make sure you sign the attendance sheet.

Excused absences are those due to religious holidays (as outlined in the University Calendar; please inform me in advance if such an absence is to take place), illness (must be properly documented. A note from Hurtado Health Center or from your private physician stating that you had visited the doctor’s office, or absence due to university related business (e.g., sport team) will be excused.

#### *Cell phone use*

**Please refrain from using cell phones to make or receive calls and/or text messages.** If you absolutely must have a cell phone on, please have it in **silent mode** at all times during the class. If you have an emergency call coming in during the class, make sure to take it outside the classroom.

### *Laptop use*

If you are using a laptop in class, I expect that you will use it for the purposes of class only. Please do not use it to check email, go on Facebook, or looking at websites that do not pertain to class.

### *Academic Integrity*

Please make sure you know the University policy on academic integrity ([www.rcstudentservice.rutgers.edu/academic\\_integrity.html](http://www.rcstudentservice.rutgers.edu/academic_integrity.html)). As college students, I expect you to have high academic and integrity standards. Thus, I expect all your assignments to be your original work (or original group product, where required). If at any point during the semester, you need help, please see me or other appropriate services at Rutgers.

### *Accommodations for People with Disabilities*

Any member of the class with a disability can be provided with appropriate accommodations. You should consult the Office of Disability Services at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. I will work with you in order to provide reasonable accommodations to ensure that you have a fair opportunity to perform in this class. Services are available only to students who submit appropriate documentation.

### *Tentative Course Outline and Important Dates:*

Date	Topic	Assigned Readings	Assignments
Week 1 September 4	Introduction Foundations of Development -The study of human development	Ch. 1 (LCC)	
Week 2 September 11	-Biocultural Foundations -Prenatal Development and Birth	Ch. 2, 3 (LCC)  Fraley, Griffin, Belsky, & Roisman (2012)	
Week 3 September 18	Early Infancy: -The first three months -Physical and Cognitive Development in Infancy	Ch. 4 & 5 (LCC)  Morelli, Rogoff, Oppenheim & Goldsmith (1992)	
Week 4 September 25	Infancy cont.: -Social and Emotional -Development in Infancy	Ch. 6 (LCC)  Berger, S. E., Adolph, K.E. & Kavookjian, A. (2010)  Henderson, Gerson, & Woodward (2008)	<b>Problem 1 assigned</b>
Week 5 October 2	Early Childhood: -Language Acquisition	Ch. 7 (LCC)  Bruner & Sherwood (1976)	<b>Problem 1 due</b>

Week 6 October 9	Early Childhood cont.: -Physical and Cognitive Development in Early Childhood	Ch. 8 (LCC)  Trionfi, G. & Reese, E. (2009)	
Week 7 October 16	Early Childhood cont.: -Social and Emotional Development in Early Childhood -Contexts of Development	Ch. 9 & 10 (LCC)  Vaish, Carpenter, & Tomasello (2010)	
Week 8 October 23	Middle Childhood: -Physical and Cognitive Development in Middle Childhood	Ch. 11 (LCC)  Gauvain, M. & Perez, S. (2005)	<b>Problem 2 assigned</b>
Week 9 October 30	Middle Childhood cont.: -School as a Context for Development	Ch. 12 (LCC)  Maynard, A.E. (2002)  Siegler, Duncan, Davis-Kean, Duckworth, Claessens, Engel, Susperreguy, & Chen (2012)	<b>Problem 2 due</b>
Week 10 November 6	Middle Childhood cont.: - Social and Emotional Development in Middle Childhood	Ch. 13 (LCC)  Crick, N. & Grotpeter, J. (1995)	
Week 11 November 13	Adolescence -Physical and Cognitive Development in Adolescence	Ch. 14 (LCC)  Campione-Barr, N. & Smetana, J.G. (2010)	
Week 12 November 20	Adolescence cont.: -Social and Emotional Development in Adolescence	Ch. 15 (LCC)  Arnett, J. (1999)  Hallet, D., Chandler, M. & Lalonde, C. (2007)	<b>Problem 3 assigned</b>
<b>November 27</b>	<b>No class</b>	<b>Happy Thanksgiving!</b>	
Week 13 December 4	Perspective on Development -Long Range: Children, Families, Communities	Erikson TBA (Childhood and Society)	<b>Problem 3 due</b>
December 11			<b>Final Projects Due</b>