

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

Cognition & Language: Birth to Eight: 15:290:522
Fall 2014 August 25, 2014 **DRAFT**

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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 Pearson e-College course 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.

Learning Goals

1. Students will have knowledge of psychological constructs relevant to cognitive and language development, including initial understanding of the effects of risk and disability on learning.

Assessment: Commentaries on readings, Abstract/critique, term paper.

2. Students will be able to apply these psychological constructs to educational settings and related applied contexts.

Assessment: Observation notes and reflection.

3. Students will learn to critically evaluate empirical evidence related to the psychology of education.

Assessment: Abstract/critique and term paper

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 10/6. 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 9/22) 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 8.

4. Term paper (30%). Due Nov. 24 About 3,000 words in length reviewing a topic of your choice. Give your paper an interesting title. References should be in APA style. 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 and Post this under Course Home.

Paper topics should be discussed with and approved by the instructor. Please post your topic and a list of references thus far by October 20.

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.

Weekly Topic: Topic and Assignments Comments due by Midnight

1. 9/5 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 & Hann (2011) ??
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
- 10/5 Midnight ABSTRACT/CRITIQUE DUE**
6. 10/8 Infancy: learning about the world
McCune & Ruff (1985)
McCune (2008) Chapter 4
Additional Readings to be added
 7. 10/15 Symbolic Development/Play & language
Piaget & Inhelder, Ch. 3
Vygotsky, Ch 7

McCune (1995)
McCune (1986) (optional)
Gutierrez-Solano (2010)

10/19 Term Paper Topic Due

8. 10/22 Language I
Fraiberg (1977)
McCune et al. (1996)
Dore et al (1976)
9. 10/29 Cognitive Development
Piaget & Inhelder, Ch. 4
Kamii (2004)
Starkey (2004)
10. 11/5 Language II
Chapman (2007)
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).
12. 11/19 Risk and Intervention
Ruff and Rothbart (1996) Chapter 11
Hewitt, et al. (2005)
Roberts et al. (2008)

11/23 Term Papers Due at Midnight

11/26 No new work Thanksgiving 11/28

12/8 Observation Report due at Midnight

13. 12/3 Language III : Bilingualism
Crawford (2000)
Fierro-Cobas (2001)
Vihman & McLaughlin (1982)
Johnson & Newport (1989 [1993])
14. 12/10 Term paper Discussion
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: mccune abstract.docx for example. Save your article pdf similarly: mccune 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 for 290:522
Fall, 2014 To be updated!

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