

Rutgers University Graduate School of Education
Fall 2015
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295:512 Introduction to Child Psychology Sec. 01 Monday 4:50

Professor Lorraine McCune

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Textbooks:

Boyd & Bee (2013) *The Developing Child* 13th Edition ID=2723109

NY: Pearson Education, Inc. Listed by Chapter and/or page numbers in the schedule.

Piaget, L. & Inhelder (1969) *The Psychology of the Child* Listed as P&I in assignments

Course Description: This course will introduce students to developmental psychology. While emphasis is on childhood, we also address adolescent and family issues.

Course Requirements

1. Your attendance is critical to success! Attendance and participation. 20%
2. Weekly questions and comments regarding the readings. 20% Includes weekly posting on the class website as well as class conversation.
3. Critical abstract of a research article. 20% Due **October 10**. Type the reference to the article in APA style at the top of your paper. Approximate length 1000 words. Post on the class website.
4. Observations of infant, toddler or child. 20% Approximately 5 observations should be made. Post notes regarding your observation within 24 hours of completing it. Observation Reflection due **November 29**
5. Term paper. Term paper (20%). **Due Nov. 22** About 3,000 words in length reviewing a topic of your choice. if the paper is excessively long it will be returned for revision. 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

295:512 Fall 2015 Weekly Topics and Assignments

Class 1 Sept 8: Introduction

Our Class

What is the newborn and young infant like?

Brazleton Film

Post Comments and Questions by Midnight the night before each Class!

Class 2 Sept 14: **Research Methods and Early Infancy**

Ch 1 on Methods; Ch 3 Birth & Early Infancy;

Bring to class on 9/14:

Abstract/Critique of Ohgi, et al. (2003) Practice for your later assignment.

Class 3 Sept 21: Infancy and Variation

Ch 4 pp 81-88 (Brain), Ch 5 Perceptual Development; **Fraiberg (1977)**;

1. Interesting changes in the first year of life
2. How to study infants ... And some other issues

Class 4 Sept. 28: Sensorimotor Development

Ch 6 Cognitive Development I pp 135-142; P&I pp 1-27; **McCune (1995)**

1. Piaget... Theory and infant development
2. Transition from sensorimotor processes to mental representation and pretend play

Class 5 Oct 5: Symbolic Development

Ch 8 Language; P & I 51-68, 84-87 (sec 1-2);

Why do children begin talking when they do?

Oct 10: Critical Abstract Due: Post online and bring two copies to class.

Class 6 Oct 12: Bilingualism

How languages vary... and what about bilingualism?

Fiero-Cobas & Chan (2001); Bialystok (2015)

Class 7 Oct 19: Concrete Operations

Ch 6 Cognitive Development II Concrete Operations pp 143-152; P&I 92-114;

Vygotsky (1968) Learning and Development

Emergence and Development of Logical Thought

Class 8 Oct 26: Formal Operations

Ch 6 Cognitive Development 152-162; P&I pp 130-136; 149-159

<http://www.simplypsychology.org/formal-operational.html>

Class 9 Nov 2: Children with Disabilities: Guest

Ch 4 Physical Development + TBA

Term Paper Topic Due**Class 10 Nov 9 Development across the Lifespan**

Ch 9 Personality; Erikson (1950) Eight Ages of Man

Erikson From Infancy across the Lifespan

Class 11 Nov 16 Attachment and Development

Ch 11 pp 296-309; Karen (1990); Mahler Stages (McCune Summary)

1. How a baby becomes him or her self

2.: Attachment and Development

Term paper due Nov 22 by midnight!**Thanksgiving Week****Class 12 - Online Discussion The Broader Culture: Beyond the Family**

Ch 14, Read something about child care

November 29 Observation Reflection due by midnight!**Class 13 Nov 30: Adolescents in the Family System: Guest**

Ch 10 Development of Self and Ch 13 Family System; Pruett (1997) Fathers

Class 14 Dec 7: Development OverallEpilogue p. 400-419 Nov. 23-27; Read others' Observation Reflections**Class 15 Dec 14: Last Class Term Paper Party!**

We hear about and discuss one another's papers

Guidelines for Writing the Critical Abstract and Observation Reflection Paper

Article Critique Due October 10

- 1) Choose an article from a professional journal that publishes research pertaining to developmental psychology. Examples of acceptable journals are: *Developmental Psychology*, *Cognition*, *Journal of Child Language*, *Child Development*, *Infant Behavior and Development*, *Psychological Review*, *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, *Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology* and *Infant Mental Health Journal*. The article must be from a peer reviewed journal; it must be empirical (i.e. it should not be a literature review/summary – check that participants are cited), it should not include more than 2 experiments and should not involve undecipherable (on your part) statistics.
- 2) The critique should be headed with a proper citation of your article. The following is an example of a proper citation.

Zheng, M. and Goldin-Meadow, S. (2002). Thought before language: how deaf and hearing children express motion events across cultures. *Cognition*. 85, 145-175.
- 3) The paper should include a summary of each of the four parts of a research article, namely the Introduction/Literature Review section, the Methodology section, the Results section, and the Conclusion/Discussion section.
- 4) The paper should also include a thoughtful critique of each relevant section. For example, are the researcher's questions important and hypotheses reasonable? Does the researcher use sound methodology or do you see problems? Are the results that are cited clear and accurate? Are the researcher's conclusions valid given the presented evidence? What are the shortcomings/limitations of the research reported in the article? Can you think of other possible investigations that would further our understanding of the topic addressed in the article?
- 5) The paper should be approximately 1,000 words.

Observation Reflection Paper

The objective of this reflection paper is to identify and state a theme that emerges from your observations. You should see the same child at each observation. A theme relevant to developmental psychology will emerge as you observe the child. This will be something about the child that is relatively consistent, of importance to his/her development and of interest to you. In the reflection paper you will identify the theme and then discuss how your observations of the child support the theme. For example, suppose your theme concerns the social interaction of the child. You could provide examples of his/her interactions with peers and teachers and reflect on whether the child's social behavior is typical or atypical of his/her age group. This paper should be approximately 1,000 words in length.