

Psychology 105: Child Development

Fall '11

***Note:** This syllabus is **only** a guide. Dates may change as the course progresses.

Meeting Time: Monday and Wednesday, 2:45-4:00 PM

Room: Avery 204

Professor: Mita Banerjee

Office: Scott 210 **E-mail:** Mita_Banerjee@Pitzer.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday 1:30-2:30 PM, Wed. 10:30-11:30 AM, and by appointment

Text and Readings: The textbook for this class is The Development of Children, 6th edition, by Cole, Cole and Lightfoot. **MAKE SURE THAT YOU GET THE 6TH EDITION, AND NOT EARLIER EDITIONS.** There have been a number of changes since the previous editions, and the chapters are different. The required readings book to go along with the text is Readings on the Development of Children, 5^h Ed., Gauvain & Cole. Both books are on sale at Huntley Bookstore.

Goals of the course: This course covers a broad range of topics in developmental psychology. The course focuses largely on children, but will encompass some discussion of adolescence and early adulthood. Topics will be covered conceptually as well as chronologically, and will include biological, social, cognitive and societal/cross-cultural aspects of development. Each week, we will spend a portion of one class session discussing the articles from the readings book and the general topic presented in the text. **IT IS THEREFORE ESSENTIAL THAT EVERYBODY KEEP UP WITH THE READINGS, AND BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THEM. WE WILL HAVE POP QUIZZES ON THE MATERIAL FROM THE READINGS IF IT SEEMS THAT PEOPLE ARE NOT KEEPING UP.**

Course Requirements: This course will involve exams, papers, and an internship. There will be two midterm exams during the semester, and a final exam to be held during the official exam period. You will be expected to write a final paper for the class, and a paper proposal/outline will need to be handed in earlier. Also, you will be expected to participate in **at least 40 internship hours** over the semester. Grading will be as follows:

Class Participation (5%): Students will be expected to attend class, and to participate actively in class sessions.

Internships (20%): Students will be participating either in the **Claremont Afterschool Program (CLASP), or in an array of other placements organized by the Center for California Cultural and Social Issues.** These internships include placements working with homeless children, incarcerated youth, and at-risk schoolchildren. Further information regarding placements will be shared with you during the first few sessions of class. Students will be asked to commit to 40 hours of internship placement over the course of the semester. These internships offer a wonderful opportunity to gain first-hand experience working with children, and to be able to put into a realistic framework many of the concepts we will cover in class. Students will be expected to turn in a 3-5 page reflective paper on the internship experience, due Nov. 30th. Grading will be 10% for the paper, and 10% for the teacher/supervisor evaluation.

Midterm Exams: Midterm I (10%) will be given on October 12th. **Midterm II (15%)** will be given on November 16th. The second exam is weighted more to give you a chance to get used to my style of examination. **MAKEUP EXAMS ARE ONLY GIVEN IN EXTREME, EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.**

Final Paper (15%): Students will write an 8-10 page paper on a specific applied topic in developmental psychology—in this paper I want you to think about the application of child development to real world issues. Some possible topics you might want to research include therapeutic interventions with homeless children; designing a developmentally-appropriate toy for infants; the potential use of stem cell research in combating childhood leukemia Topics need to be approved by me. Your paper should review 6-8 journal articles on your specific topic that you have found through library research. Your papers need to have a precise thesis and point of view. Your papers should not simply summarize the articles, but need to show some original thinking. You will be required to use APA (American Psychological Association) style guidelines in writing this paper.

A proposal/outline (10%) of your paper will be due November 14th. The final paper is due December 7th. **LATE PAPERS WILL BE HEAVILY PENALIZED.**

Final Exam (25%): A cumulative final exam will be held on Wednesday December 14, 2:00-4:00 PM, Avery 204.

Student Learning Objectives:

1. To familiarize students with the main theories and frameworks of developmental research.
2. To familiarize students with the main methodologies and designs used developmental research, and to teach them to critically evaluate such methods.
3. To teach students to apply developmental concepts in their interactions with actual children/adolescents.
4. To create an awareness of cross-cultural issues in development, and critical social justice issues facing children.

Schedule of Readings

<u>Class dates</u>	<u>Topic and assigned readings</u>	T=text	R=readings
Sept. 5/7	Introduction to child development		
Sept. 12/14	Socialization Contexts		
	T-Ch. 10		R- (Werner); (Farver & Howes)
Sept. 19/21	Biological influences/ Prenatal development		
	T-Ch. 2, Ch. 3		R-(DeCasper & Fifer); (Kagan)
Sept. 26/28	Schooling and intelligence testing		
	T-Ch. 12		R- (Stigler & Stevenson)
Oct. 3/5	Very Early infancy		
	T-Ch. 4		R- (Campos et al.; Werker)
Oct. 10/12	Later Infancy		
	T-Ch. 5, Ch. 6		R- (Hewlett et al.)

Midterm I, October 12

NO CLASSES OCT. 17, FALL BREAK

Oct. 19/24/26	Social development in early childhood		
	T-Ch. 9		R- (Maccoby)
Oct. 31/Nov. 2	Social development in middle childhood		
	T-Ch. 13		R- (Miller et al.)
Nov. 7/9	Language/Cognitive Development		
	T-Ch. 7, Ch 8		R- (Vinden)
Nov. 14/16	Cognitive/Biological Development		
	T-Ch. 11		

Paper outline due November 14

MIDTERM II, November 16

Nov. 21/23	Early experience and later life		
------------	---------------------------------	--	--

R- (Juvonen et al.; Kagitcibasi et al.)

Nov. 28/30 Physical/Cognitive Aspects of Adolescence

Reflective paper due November 30

Dec. 5/7 Socio-emotional Achievements of Adolescence

T-Ch. 15 R- (Dishion et al); (Bumpus et al.)

Final Paper due December 7

FINAL EXAM: WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 14, 2:00-4:00 PM, AVERY 204