

Psychology 218- INFANT DEVELOPMENT
Fall Semester 2004

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Class: Tuesdays & Thursdays 2:30-3:45 - Math & Sciences 208
Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:30 to 3:00 PM or by appointment

Text:

Michael Lamb, Marc Bornstein, and Douglas Teti (2002) Development in Infancy
Darwin Muir and Alan Slater (2000) Infant Development: The essential readings

Course Description. How does a helpless newborn develop into a three year old who can tell stories, play games and maintain friendships? This course examines the remarkable changes in physical, cognitive and social/emotional development infants undergo during the first two to three years of life. We will cover many aspects of infant development including pregnancy and childbirth, physical, perceptual and brain development, memory, language, cognitive, social and emotional development. At the end of the course we will evaluate products marketed as making babies smarter.

Course goals. The goals of the class are to provide an overview of different areas of infancy research and an introduction to the leaders in the field conducting this research. The course is designed to stimulate critical thinking by contrasting different theoretical perspectives in each of these areas. Additionally, class exercises are provided to give "hands on" experience with different methodologies used in the studies covered in class.

Lectures will be given as power point presentations, an outline version of each presentation and study questions will be available on Blackboard the evening before class. **Selected** slides, powerpoint demos, and videos will be available **after** the class.

Exams: There are three midterm exams and an optional final. The three midterm exams will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and essay/thought questions based on material presented in lectures (including videos, guest speakers, and visitors) and from the readings. The three mid terms cover material from that section (approximately one-third of the clas). The final exam is optional. cumulative, i.e. will cover material equally from all three sections, and will be 100% multiple choice. The final exam is optional. I will take the top three grades.

Exam grading: Requests for revised points on midterms will be considered only if the argument is provided in writing within 1 week after the day the professor hands back the exams.

Make-up exams: There will be no make up exams. There will be an optional final exam, which will be cumulative and all multiple choice. I will take the three highest grades. If you need to miss an exam you must take the final. If you arrive late to an exam there will be no extra time given.

Assignments. Class assignments are accessible three ways: in the Assignments button in Blackboard, in the course documents for that week, and through the interactive syllabus. Class assignments are designed to give you "hands on" experience with some of the experimental methods used in infancy research. These are short assignments. Turn them in through the drop box or exam section in Blackboard. See the interactive syllabus. The results will be discussed in the next class period after they are assigned. Therefore, they are due the day before the next class. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Class Project. Evaluation of parent kits, books for parents or design your own product. This is a 3-5 page paper which you may either evaluate a commercial product already on the market or design your own product. You **must** work in pairs. The class project is due on December 2nd. See Blackboard for a more detailed description of the class project.

Extra credit. To get the class more involved and encourage attendance some days there will be exercises/ demonstrations conducted in class. I will ask the participants to turn in the results of these projects during that class. These will count as extra credit points - amounts TBA. There may also be extra credit points on the exams. No other extra credit points will be given.

Course Grading: Grades are based on the average scores of the top three exams, each exam counting as 30% of the grade. I will take the top three grades. Class exercises count for 5%. The other 5% is from a class project due Dec 7th. Students must work in pairs on the class project.

The course is not graded on a curve. The cutoffs are as follows:

A = 100-93, A- = 92-90

B+ = 89-86, B = 85-83, B- = 82-80

C+ = 79-76, C = 75-73, C- = 72-70

D = 69-61

F = 60 and below.

Topic	Date	Readings	Assignments
Introduction	Aug 26	None – but check the interactive syllabus for the extra credit assignment	Exercise 1: due Sept 2
History and Theories	Aug 31	Lamb, Bornstein, & Teti - Chapter 1 Muir & Slater - (pp. 35-48) Haith 1998- Optional	
Prenatal Development	Sept 2	Lamb, Bornstein, & Teti - Ch 4: pp 94-113. Slater & Lewis, Chapter 3	
Pregnancy and Childbirth	Sept 7	Lamb, Bornstein, & Teti - Ch 4: pp 113-117.	
Newborn Period	Sept 9	Lamb, Bornstein, & Teti - Ch 4: pp 117-131.	
Brain Development	Sept 14	Lamb, Bornstein, & Teti - Chapter 5	
Motor Development	Sept 16	Lamb, Bornstein, & Teti - Ch 4: pp 123-130	
Methods	Sept 21 Sept 23	Lamb, Bornstein, & Teti – Chapter 3 Muir & Slater (pp 53-63)	Exercise 2: Due 9/22 – i.e., the day before class on 9/23
Midterm 1 (30% of grade)	Sept 28	Midterm covers : Introduction – Methods	
Perceptual Development	Sept 30 Oct 5	Lamb, Bornstein, & Teti - Ch 6: pp 167-190 Lamb, Bornstein, & Teti - Ch 6: pp190-204	
Cognitive Development 1	Oct 7	Lamb, Bornstein, & Teti- Chapter 7 Muir & Slater (pp. 193-211)	
Fall Break- no class	Oct 12		
Cognitive Development 2	Oct 14	Lamb, Bornstein, & Teti - Chapter 8 Muir & Slater (pp 213-233)	

Imitation	Oct 19	Muir & Slater (pp. 165-180)	Exercise 3 Due 10/20
Memory & Infantile amnesia	Oct 21	Bornstein, & Teti (Ch 8:pp 255-262) Kagan, infant memory – on Blackboard	Exercise 3: Review paper 10/25
Midterm 2 (30% of grade)	Oct 26	Midterm covers: Perceptual Development– Speech Perception	
Speech Perception	Oct 28	Muir & Slater (pp. 147-161)	
Language Development	Nov 2 Nov 4	Lamb, Bornstein, & Teti – Chapter 9 Muir & Slater (pp 269-277)	Exercise 5: Due on 11/3
Social Emotional	Nov 9 Nov 11	Lamb, Bornstein, & Teti – Chapter 10 Lamb, Bornstein, & Teti – Chapter 11	
Attachment	Nov 16	Muir & Slater, (pp. 319-339)	Exercise 6: Due 11/17
Disorders of Infancy	Nov 18	Muir & Slater, (pp 341-360)	
Family, Daycare, and Culture	Nov 23	Lamb, Bornstein, & Teti- Chapter 2	
Thanksgiving Break - no class	Nov 25		
How critical are the first three years?	Nov 30	Lamb, Bornstein, & Teti - Ch 12	
Babies come to class- and review	Dec 2	No readings –	Project Due 12/2
Midterm 3 (30 % of grade)	Dec 7	Midterm 3 covers: Language Development – last day of class	
Final Exam - Optional	TBA	Cumulative - replaces lowest midterm grade All multiple choice	