

Columbia University

Summer 2016

S3280D Seminar in Infant Development

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Required texts:

Development in Infancy: A Contemporary Introduction (2014), Fifth Edition, by M. H. Bornstein, M. E. Arterberry, and M.E. Lamb. Psychology Press. ISBN: 978-0-8058-6363-5

Infant Development A Topical Approach 2/E (2015) by Alan Fogel. Sloan Educational Publishing. ISBN: 978-1-59738-060-7

Suggested resource:

Infancy: Development From Birth to Age 3, 2/E (2011) by Dana Gross. Pearson. ISBN-13: 978-0-2057-3419-1

Prerequisite: An introductory course in Psychology or the instructor's permission.

Course description:

William James (1890) described the experience of young infants as a blooming, buzzing confusion. Because of advances in the study of infant perception and cognition, we now know that this is not true. Newborn infants are equipped with basic sensory systems that rapidly develop. This seminar will provide an overview of infant development based on current research, with the primary focus on perception and cognition. Theoretical issues, such as assessment of competence, continuity in development, and the relative contributions of genetics and experience, will be discussed.

Course requirements and grading:

- Paper and presentation based on one of the topics in the course outline (40% of grade),
- Weekly short answer take home assignments based on information presented in class and in the reading (50% of grade) due the following week, and
- Class attendance and participation (10% of grade).

Paper: Paper topics will be discussed in the first class meeting. Students will briefly review what is in the reading and then supplement this by including material from other sources as the basis of their paper. Papers should be based on research articles from journals, such as *Infant Behavior and Development*, *Developmental Psychology*, and *Child Development*, and contributions from advanced texts. Papers should not exceed 10 pages and include at least 5 journal articles as references. Students will present their topic and lead a discussion on the last day of class.

Deadline: **The deadline is June 30** for all papers.

Course Outline of Topics and Chapters in the Texts:

Date	Topic	Bornstein, Arterberry, & Lamb	Fogel
May 24	Why study infants? History and theoretical background Methods and Social Policy	1 3	1
May 26	Prenatal development • <i>Weekly short answer take home assignment #1 due May 31</i>	4	2,3,&4
May 31	Birth Reflexes Motor development	4	2 & 5
June 2	Newborn states of arousal Perceptual development • <i>Weekly short answer take home assignment #2 due June 7</i>	5 6	5
June 7	Cognitive development: Learning and Information processing	7	6
June 9	Cognitive development: Piaget Tests of infant intelligence • <i>Weekly short answer take home assignment #3 due June 14</i>	7	6
June 14	Memory Categorization Symbolic play	8	6
June 16	Language development • <i>Weekly short answer take home assignment #4 due June 21</i>	9	7
June 21	Emotional development Temperament	10	8
June 23	Social development Attachment; child care • <i>Weekly short answer take home assignment #5 due June 28</i>	11&12	9
June 28	Effects of Socioeconomic class and culture • <i>Weekly short answer take home assignment #6 due June 30</i>	2	10
June 30	Presentation and discussion of students' paper topics <i>Papers due</i>		