

HD 411/HD 511: Children's Cognitive Development, Section 1 (3 Credits)

Interim 2005, MTWRF 8:45 – 11:30, Doster Hall
Required Text: Children's Thinking (4th Edition), R. Siegler (2005)
Office Hours: 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. MW, and by appointment
Professor: Jason Scofield, Ph.D.
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Office: 107 East Annex
course website (url): <http://www.ches.ua.edu/Classes/hd411001/>

Course Description/Objectives: HD 411/511 advances student's knowledge of the current theory and research in the study of children's cognitive development during infancy and early childhood.

Course Structure: The structure of this course will consist mostly of in-class lecturing and discussion of course materials. Students will be responsible for all assigned materials. Although some of the material covered in lectures will also be covered in the text, throughout the semester there will be topics presented in class that are not discussed in the text. Likewise, there will be topics presented in the text that will not be discussed in class. In order to excel in this course, students are required to have a good working knowledge of both lecture and text material.

Attendance is strongly encouraged. The in-class description and discussion of course materials is vital to acquiring a clear understanding of complex psychological and developmental concepts. Extra credit opportunities will be unavailable to students who do not attend class.

Grading Policy: Students interim grade will be based on one examination (100 points) and one research paper (50 points). Student's grades in this course will be calculated as the total number of earned points divided by the total number of available points. Final grade assignments will proceed as follows:

135 - 150 points - A
120 - 135 points - B
105 - 120 points - C
90 - 105 points - D
0 - 90 points - F

Examinations will include all materials assigned or discussed during the course (sections of the course are outlined in the course schedule on the following pages). Details for the research paper including the selection of possible topics will be discussed during the interim. Graduate students will be asked to satisfy different requirements than undergraduate students including essay-based exams, longer research papers, and in-class presentations.

Make-Up Examinations: If an examination is missed due to illness or emergency circumstances, the student must notify this instructor or the Human Development and Family Studies Office (348 - 6158) of his/her absence prior to the time of the exam. Any examination that is not completed by the end of the course will be scored as a 0 (zero). Students missing two or more examinations should withdraw from the course.

Academic Honesty: Provisions of the Alabama Academic Honor Code will be followed in this course. Academic misconduct in any form (including: cheating, plagiarism, fabrication of information, misrepresentation, and abetting any of the above) will result in failure of the course and any violator of this Honor Code will be immediately referred to the University Judicial Board for subsequent action. If cheating is suspected but conclusive evidence is not available, this professor reserves the right to re-administer any examination or assignment in question.

Inclement Weather Policy: If the University remains open, class will be held as scheduled. However, if severe or adverse weather conditions prohibit your attendance from class or threaten your safety, a reasonable effort will be made to accommodate you. In the event that the University is closed on the day an examination is scheduled the examination will be administered during the following class.

Special Accommodations: The Department of Human Development and Family Studies makes reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Any student who may need special arrangements in order to meet the requirements of the course must present documentation of the disability to the Office of Disability Services. The office will prepare a letter for the student's instructors indicating accommodation that needs to be made. The student needs to supply the letter to the instructor as soon as possible so that necessary accommodation may be made. If you are registered with the Office of Disabilities Services, please see the instructor to discuss any course accommodations. If you have a disability but have not contacted the Office of Disabilities Services, please call 348-4285 or visit 220 Research Drive to register for services.

Tentative Course Outline for Interim 2005

WEEK 1

- 5-16 Introduction, History, Methods, Biological Bases of Cognitive Development
CHAPTER 1 & 2
- 5-17 Piagetian Theory
CHAPTER 3
- 5-18 Information Processing Theory
CHAPTER 4
- 5-19 Socio-Contextual Theory
CHAPTER 5
- 5-20 Perceptual Development
CHAPTER 5

WEEK 2

- 5-23 Representation
CHAPTER (Bjorklund - Children's Thinking, Ch. 9)
- 5-24 Language Development
CHAPTER 6
- 5-25 Language Development, Memory Development
CHAPTER 6 & 7
- 5-26 Memory Development
CHAPTER 7
- 5-27 Theory of Mind
CHAPTER (Flavell - Annual Review of Psychology, Ch. 2)

WEEK 3

- 5-30 Conceptual Development
CHAPTER 8
- 5-31 Social Cognition
CHAPTER 9
- 6-1 Social Cognition
CHAPTER 9
- 6-2 Academic Skills
CHAPTER 11
- 6-3 Review
FINAL EXAM, RESEARCH PAPER