

HDE 101/ PSC 141: Cognitive Development Course Syllabus

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Course Location: Hoagland 168
Course Time: T/W/TH 10:00am – 11:40am
Office Hours: Mondays 10am – 12 pm, or by apt.

About this Course

Course Catalog Description

Theories, methods, evidence, and debates in the field of cognitive development, such as nature/nurture, constraints on learning, and the role of plasticity. Topics include attention, memory, concepts about the physical and social world, and language.

Course Objectives

Through discussions, collaborative learning activities and interactions, written assignments, and examinations, this course will prepare you to:

- Understand perspectives of cognitive development
- Learn methodological approaches to studying cognitive development
- Understand development in areas including perception, memory, language, conceptual understanding, problem solving, and reasoning
- Think critically about education implications and cross-cultural issues

Course Requirements

Required Text

1. Bjorklund & Causey (2017). Children's Thinking (6th Edition). Sage.
**Previous versions are okay, just note the chapters might be in a different order*
2. APA Handbook (optional)

Technology Requirements

Be sure you have access to Canvas for handouts, announcements, course information, and class notes. This will be used regularly throughout the course.

Communication and Office Hours

The best way to reach me is through my Davis email, listed above. I will respond to emails with 48 hours during weekdays. **Please put the course number at the beginning of your subject line.** If my office hours do not work for you, please feel free to email me to set up an appointment.

Participation, Attendance, and Classroom Behavior

Although I will not be taking roll, we will be doing graded activities during class that count towards participation so it is strongly recommended you come to every class. In order to foster a safe, open learning environment, the following is expected by all students:

- Be respectful and open minded of classmates' ideas; lets disagree, but talk about why
- Be courteous to the learning process of others; do not be disruptive if arriving late, or distracting by engaging in unrelated activities in class
- Listen attentively and share ideas when you have them
- Come prepared to talk about and share ideas
- Demonstrate honesty and integrity; do not plagiarize or copy others' work
- Take academic risks -it's okay to be wrong, not have answers, and guess (that's what learning is all about!)

- Keep all cell phones away and silent *unless* they are required for an activity in class
- If using a computer to take notes, sit near the back and avoid going on unrelated sites (this distracts me and students around you)
- When in group activities, please stay on topic and avoid unrelated side conversations
- Communicate clearly and effectively – if there is something you need from me or the class, please don't be shy about asking

Course Assignments

The following requirements have been designed to help you master the material and achieve the learning goals outlined above. ***You will be receiving more detailed information and handouts throughout the quarter;*** however, a brief summary of the assignments is presented below.

In-class Assignments: There will be regular in-class assignments that are worth points (so come to class!). These assignments will help you understand and apply the material that we talk about, and prepare for exams. They also ensure that your grade is not dependent on exams.

Exams: There will be three non-cumulative exams based on material covered in class and course readings. Each of these exams is worth 50 points. Exams will consist of true/false, multiple choice, and matching questions. These exams will all be given online, and be open note and open book. Despite being online and open book, you are still expected to complete these exams individually.

Short Paper: The 2-page paper will be associated with a published magazine, newspaper (e.g., Time, Newsweek, New York Times, etc.), or internet article (note this means no professional journal articles). You are asked to copy a magazine or newspaper article bearing on children's intellectual development that has recently (after 2010) been published.

Final Toy/Activity Proposal: The 4-page proposal (*not including title page or references*) where you design a new toy or activity for children based on research. You will design your toy around a specific topic which may include (but are not limited to): memory, language, conceptual development, social cognition, problem solving strategies or skills, mathematical or scientific reasoning. The research-based toy/activity proposal will provide you with the opportunity to examine an area that you are interested in and understand how to apply it in a fun, creative way.

Grade Breakdown

You are responsible for maintaining an accurate record of your grades. Grades will be calculated on the following grade scale (note: numbers are in percentages):

A	93.0 – 100.0	B+	88.0 – 89.9	C+	78.0 – 79.9	D+	78.0 – 79.9	F	<59.9
A-	90.0 – 92.9	B	83.0 – 87.9	C	73.0 – 77.9	D	73.0 – 77.9		

Exams (3 total, each 50 points)	150 Points
Short Paper	25 Points
Final Proposal	75 Points
In-Class Activities	~60 Points
Total:	~310 Points

Late Policy

Every 24 hours an assignment is late, 10% will be deducted. Late assignments will not be accepted more than 1 week after they are due.

Tips for Succeeding in Class

1. Come to class *on time*, actively participate, and complete all assignments
2. Read the reading *before* we cover it in class and skim it again after class
3. In preparation for the exams, make summaries of your lecture notes and of the chapters and get organized; do not wait until the last minute to prepare
4. Get to know your classmates; you learn a lot more when you learn together
5. Allow yourself plenty of time before the due dates to complete the assignments
6. If you are having trouble, talk to me as soon as you notice the trouble; do not wait until it is too late for me to help you catch up

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty includes cheating, making up information, plagiarizing, and/or helping someone else commit an act of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism is the act of taking the specific substance of another and offering it as your own without properly citing the original source. Students found guilty of academic dishonesty will be assigned an appropriate academic penalty.

Special Needs

Please inform me in the first week of class of any disability or special needs that you have that require specific arrangements related to attending class sessions, carrying out class assignments, or writing papers or examinations. According to the University of California, Davis Policy, students with disabilities need to document their disabilities at the Services to Students with Disabilities office.

Course Schedule

(Schedule may be revised as needed)

Week	Date	Lecture Topic	Readings	Assignment(s) DUE
1	T: 6/26	Introduction & Piaget's Theory of Development Piaget's Theory of Development	Ch. 1	
	W: 6/27			
	Th: 6/28			
2	T: 7/3	Sociocultural Theories	Ch. 3	
	W: 7/4			
	Th: 7/5	Perception	Ch. 4	<i>Exam 1 Released Online (due Friday 11:59pm)</i>
3	T: 7/10	Perception		Short Paper Due Online by 10am
	W: 7/11	Language	Ch. 9	
	Th: 7/12			
4	T: 7/17	Memory	Ch. 8	
	W: 7/18			
	Th: 7/19	Conceptual Development	Ch. 6	<i>Exam 2 Released Online (due Fri 11:59pm)</i>
5	T: 7/24	Problem Solving	Ch. 7	
	W: 7/25			
	Th: 7/26	Social Cognition	Ch. 10	
6	T: 7/31	Social Cognition		Proposal Due Online by 10am
	W: 8/1	No Class - Take Exam 3		<i>Exam 3 Released Online (due Wed 11:59pm)</i>
	Th: 8/2	Academics & Wrap Up	Ch. 11	