

PSYD20S -- Current Topics in Developmental Psychology

Perceptual and Motor Development

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Office: S-515
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Office Hours: Thursday, 10:00-12:00

Course Description:

This course is designed to provide a broad and comprehensive overview of theories and research in perceptual and motor development. The topics to be covered include object perception, the perception of form, depth perception, visual organization, perception, event perception, auditory perception, speech and music perception, and so on. The format of this course is seminar-discussion. Each week, students will read a series of papers and/or experimental reports, and will discuss these readings in class.

Course Requirements:

The requirements for this class include multiple papers of different types. The first type of paper are thought pieces and/or critical reports, focussing on one of the articles that you have read for a given week (I will inform you on which article to focus). The MAXIMUM length on these papers is 1-1.5 pages (typed, double spaced), and they should include a short description about what the paper was about, and your a comment or reaction to this work, a problem you noted, a suggestion for future work, and so on. These papers will be due at the beginning of class each week, when there is no other piece of work due. The second type of paper that is required is a somewhat longer, although still short (2-4 pages) experimental proposal. Experimental proposals focus on the recently read material (i.e., the last few weeks), and should focus on suggesting a topic for future study. More detailed explanation of these papers will be given later. The final type of paper is a 15-20 page term project which represents an in-depth investigation of any topic area involving perceptual and/or motor development. This paper will require library research, as well as creative thought and synthesis.

The other main requirement is class attendance and participation. Because the class meets only 1 day a week, attendance is MANDATORY! Note that class attendance and participation are a factor in your grade.

Class Outline and Assignment Dates

Week	Tentative Topic	Assignment	% of grade
Jan. 7	Organizational Meeting		
Jan. 14	Methodology	Thought paper	2%
Jan. 21	Psychophysics	Thought paper	2%
Jan. 28	Depth Perception	Thought paper	2%
Feb. 4	Form and Object Perception	Research proposal 1	12%
Feb. 11	Event Perception	Thought paper	2%
Feb. 18	READING WEEK -- no class		
Feb. 25	Intermodal Perception	Thought paper	2%
Mar. 4	Imitation	Research proposal 2	12%
Mar. 11	Speech Perception	Thought paper	2%
Mar. 18	Music Perception	Thought paper	2%
Mar. 25	Reaching	Thought paper	2%
Apr. 1	Postural control	Research proposal 3	12%
Apr. 8	Locomotion	Term Paper (due by 5 PM)	40%

Thought Pieces	16%	(2% x 8)
Research Proposals	36%	(12% x 3)
Term Paper	40%	
Class Participation	8%	

Total: 100%