

Current Topics in Developmental Psychology

Perceptual and Motor Development

Instructor: Mark Schmuckler

Office: S-515

Phone: 287-7417

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, focusing on the articles that you have read for a given week. 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 of	Tentative Topic	Assignment	% of grade
Jan. 5	Organizational Meeting		
Jan. 12	Methodology	Thought paper	2%
Jan. 19	Depth Perception	Thought paper	2%
Jan. 26	Form and Object Perception	Thought paper	2%
Feb. 2	<i>Research Proposal Presentations</i>	Research proposal 1	12%
Feb. 9	Intermodal Perception	Thought paper	2%
Feb. 16	READING WEEK -- no class		
Feb. 23	Spatial orientation	Thought paper	2%
Mar. 2	<i>Research Proposal Presentations</i>	Research proposal 2	12%
Mar. 9	Speech and Music Perception	Thought paper	2%
Mar. 16	Reaching	Thought paper	2%
Mar. 23	Postural Control	Thought paper	2%
Mar. 30	Locomotion	Thought paper	2%
Apr. 6	<i>Research Proposal Presentations</i>	Research proposal 3	12%
April 13	-----	Term Paper (due by 2 PM)	40%
	Thought Pieces	18% (2% x 9)	
	Research Proposals	36% (12% x 3)	
	Term Paper	40%	
	Class Participation	6%	
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	Total:	100%	