

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 and depth perception, visual organization, intermodal perception, speech and music perception, spatial orientation, postural control and locomotion, 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 - 2 pages (typed, double spaced), and they should include a short description about what the paper was about, and a comment or reaction to this work, or a problem you noted, or a suggestion for future work, and so on. The second type of paper that is required is a somewhat longer, although still short (3 - 5 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. All papers are due at the beginning of class (i.e., 2 PM). The weekly thought papers WILL NOT be accepted late; if you miss a week, you cannot make up this credit. For the research proposals and term paper, the standard penalty for late a paper is that your mark is lowered one grade (e.g., A- → B+) for each day that it is late.

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. 4	Organizational Meeting		
Jan. 11	Methodology	Thought paper	2%
Jan. 18	Depth and Object Perception	Thought paper	2%
Jan. 25	Early Knowledge in Infancy	Thought paper	2%
Feb. 1	<i>Research Proposal Presentations</i>	Research proposal 1	12%
Feb. 8	Intermodal Perception	Thought paper	2%
Feb. 15	READING WEEK -- no class		
Feb. 22	Infant Imitation	Thought paper	2%
Mar. 1	<i>Research Proposal Presentations</i>	Research proposal 2	12%
Mar. 8	Spatial Orientation	Thought paper	2%
Mar. 15	Speech and Music Perception	Thought paper	2%
Mar. 22	Reaching	Thought paper	2%
Mar. 29	Postural Control and Locomotion	Thought paper	2%
Apr. 5	<i>Research Proposal Presentations</i>	Research proposal 3	12%
April 12	-----	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%	

NOTE: The actual topics are subject to change, depending on the interests of the class.