SYLLABUS

This course examines theory and research concerning six topics in developmental psychology: (1) Memory for events during infancy and early childhood, (2) Children’s understanding of themselves and others, (3) Children’s awareness of the difference between reality and fantasy, (4) Children’s reasoning about biological and social categories, (5) Peer relationships and social interactions, and (6) Developmental Psychopathology: Autism and Williams Syndrome. Class meetings will include lecture and discussion. Assigned readings are available online through electronic reserves at the library.

There will be three exams. Each exam will consist of short essay questions covering both readings and lecture material. The first two exams will be worth 100 points and the third exam will be worth 120 points. There will be one writing assignment worth 80 points.

January 15-17    Infant memory and infantile amnesia


January 22-24    Autobiographical memory in early childhood


January 29-31    Self-concepts in infancy and early childhood


February 5-7    Understanding Others

February 12-14  

**Children’s understanding of fantasy and reality: Real vs. mental entities**

**EXAM 1 FEBRUARY 12**


**February 19-21  

Magical beliefs and causal reasoning**


**February 26-28  

Understanding of biological causes: Kinship and biological categories**


**March 4-6  

Social categories and stereotypes**


**EXAM 2 MARCH 6**

**March 11-13  

SPRING BREAK**

**March 18-20  

Peer relationships**


March 25-27  Social cognition and peer interactions


April 1-3  Aggression and antisocial behavior


April 8-10  Autism and social understanding


April 15-17  Autism and executive functioning


April 22-24  Williams Syndrome

WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE APRIL 22


April 29-May 1  Conclusion

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, May 6, 2-3:50