The objective of this course is to provide an overview of contemporary theories and issues concerning cognitive development. The format of class meetings will range from lecture to discussion.

Students will complete 7 5-7 page essays based on assigned readings and lecture material. One essay will be due approximately every two weeks. Essay questions and instructions will be posted on Blackboard. Essays will be due on January 30, February 13, February 27, March 20, April 3, April 17, and May 1. Each essay will be worth 100 points.

Each student will also do three in class presentations. For each presentation, select one of the assigned readings to discuss. Present a brief summary to the class and discuss the article’s relation to other assigned material and its implication for larger issues. Presentations will not be graded but three must be completed to receive a passing grade in the course.

Readings will be available on electronic reserves through Blackboard.

Course grades will be based on total points according to the following scale: A 93-100%, A- 90-92%, B+ 87-89%, B 83-86%, B- 80-82%, C+ 77-79%, C 70-76%, D 60-69%, F 0-59.

January 14-16 Infant and Early Childhood Memory and Infantile Amnesia


January 21-23  

**Autobiographical Memory**


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January 28-30  

**Accuracy, Suggestibility, and False Memories**

*Essay 1 due January 30*


February 4-6  Infant Cognition: Objects


February 11-13  Infant Cognition: Detecting Physical Causality

*Essay 2 due February 13*


February 18-20  Spatial Ability


February 25-27  Concepts, Categories, and Induction

**Essay 3 due February 27**


March 4-6  Scientific and Critical Thought


March 11-13 SPRING BREAK

March 18-20 Numerical Ability: Non-verbal Processes

*Essay 4 due March 20*


March 25-27 Numerical Ability: Counting and Arithmetic


April 1-3  Social Cognition: Infancy

**Essay 5 due April 3**


April 8-10  Social Cognition: Understanding Mental States


April 15-17   Social Cognition: Social and Cultural Influences

**Essay 6 due April 17**


April 22-24   Social Cognition: Social Categories, Stereotypes, and Bias


April 29-May 1 Conclusion

*Essay 7 due May 1*

No Reading Assignment.

**Students with Disabilities:**
Northern Illinois University is committed to providing an accessible educational environment in collaboration with the Disability Resource Center (DRC). Any student requiring an academic accommodation due to a disability should let his or her faculty member know as soon as possible. Students who need academic accommodations based on the impact of a disability will be encouraged to contact the DRC if they have not done so already. The DRC is located on the 4th floor of the Health Services Building, and can be reached at 815-753-1303 (V) or drc@niu.edu.

**Academic Integrity:**
Please note Northern Illinois University’s policy regarding academic integrity:
*Good academic work must be based on honesty. The attempt of any student to present as his or her own work that which he or she has not produced is regarded by the faculty and administration as a serious offense. Students are considered to have cheated if they copy the work of another during an examination or turn in a paper or an assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else. Students are responsible for plagiarism, intentional or not, if they copy material from books, magazines, or other sources without identifying and acknowledging those sources or if they paraphrase ideas from such sources without acknowledging them. Students responsible for, or assisting others in, either cheating or plagiarism on an assignment, quiz, or examination may receive a grade of F for the course involved and may be suspended or dismissed from the university.*

A tutorial regarding academic integrity is available at: www.niu.edu/ai/students/