

CG063  
Children's Thinking: Introduction to Cognitive Development  
Spring Semester, 2007

<u>Instructor</u>	<u>Teaching Assistants</u>	
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OH: Wed 1:30-3:30pm	OH: Mon 9:30-11:30am	OH: Tuesday 12:30-2:30pm

Overview

This course will examine children's thinking and cognitive development from infancy to middle childhood. Some of the topics we will consider are children's memory, reasoning ability, categorization, and concepts such as space, time, number, biology, and mind. To examine these topics, we will investigate some of the major theories of cognitive development, and we will attempt to evaluate those theories in light of the available psychological data.

Required Reading

(FMM): Flavell, J. H., Miller, P. H., & Miller, S. A. (2002). *Cognitive Development*. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice Hall.  
Reader (Available online, see below)

Recommended Reading:

Gopnik, A., Meltzoff, A. N., & Kuhl, P. K. (1999). *The Scientist in the Crib*. New York: Perennial.

Course Requirements

*General Grading Guidelines:* Grades are determined by performance on the assignments listed below. Grades reflect your ability to demonstrate knowledge of the material.

*Class.* I expect you to attend each class. Lecture slides (except for the first class) will be posted to the CG063 *mycourses* page before each class. If you wish, you may print out these slides to assist in your note taking, but these slides will not contain all of the material that is presented in class. I will expect you to understand material beyond what is presented on the slides.

*Readings.* Each class has a reading associated with it. These readings are required, unless noted by an (R) on the schedule below, in which case the reading is recommended. Your chances for success will improve if you do the recommended readings. Just because I do not talk about a particular topic from the reading in class does not mean that I will not ask about it on an exam. However, my exams are often made up of material presented in both the readings and the lecture. The Flavell et al. book is our text. Other recommended readings will be available through links on the *mycourses* page. The Gopnik et al. book is recommended, and can be purchased in the bookstore or on Amazon (or whatever book provider you choose).

*Exams.* There will be two exams, a midterm and a final. The midterm will be on March 7, during class time. The final will be on May 15 at 9am. Do not take this class if you cannot make the exam dates, as there will be no scheduled make-ups. The final will concentrate on material presented in the second half of the semester. However, there will be some integrated questions on the final. Both exams will be made up of fill-in-the-blank and essay questions. You will receive a study guide with the exact essay questions at least one week before each exam. The midterm will each constitute 25% of your grade for the class. The final will constitute 30% of your grade.

*Paper.* There will be one research paper, due at the end of the semester, before the final exam. The goal of this paper will be to incorporate theory and empirical data. The paper is worth 35% of your grade. More information will be provided during the semester.

*Reaction Papers:* Over the course of the semester, you will be asked to write *four* 1-page reaction papers to some of the assigned readings from journal articles. There are fourteen possible assignments (you can do as many as you like, but you will only receive credit for four). The assignments are marked below. I strongly advise not waiting until the last weeks of the semester to do these assignments. These papers are due in class on the days indicated below. Because there are 14 possible chances, I will not accept late papers at any time, nor will I (or the TAs) accept these papers over email. Feedback will be given on your writing style and the content of the papers. Together, these papers are worth 10% of your grade (2.5% each). There is one extra credit paper that you can do as well, on Lila Gleitman's public lecture, which will be on Monday, March 19 at 7:30pm (it is due the next class session). You would have to attend the lecture, and write a written reaction paper based on its content. This will be in addition to the four reaction papers.

What is a reaction paper? Writing a reaction paper involves taking the content of the article and writing a response position. Since all of the articles will contain experiments (either full descriptions with methods and results, or summaries), it is often wise to focus on those experiments. An experiment is done to answer a question. What is that question? How was the experiment designed to answer it? What did it find? Did it answer the question in a satisfactory way (why or why not?). Do the results bring up other questions? Do the authors address those questions? Do you think the authors have answered the questions they pose in a suitable manner? Why or why not?

The above questions are general guidelines. You do not have to answer all of them in each reaction paper. Nor do you have to answer these questions for the entire article (that will often be very difficult). Rather, you should focus on one or two of them for one or two parts of the article, and expound on your answer. Importantly, a reaction paper is not a summary. The purpose of the assignment is to determine whether these experiments address the research topic in a satisfactory manner, and for us to gauge your thoughts about the experiments and relation between the data and the theoretical claims that are made. The hope is that the reaction papers provide you with a good deal of preparation for writing the final paper. My advice is to do them early, and talk to the TAs about the feedback you receive and the questions you might have.

#### Schedule of Classes and Assignments

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Readings</u>
Jan 24	Introduction	
Jan 26	Methods 1	Miller (1998) Ch 2
Jan 29	Methods 2	Miller (1998), Ch. 3 GMK, Ch. 1 (R)
Jan 31	Theories 1	FMM, Ch 1
Feb 2	Theories 2 <i>RP on Baillargeon due</i>	Baillargeon (1987) GMK Ch. 5 (R)
Feb 5	Infant Perception 1	FMM, Ch 2, Gibson & Walk (1960) (R)

Feb 7	Infant Perception 2 <i>RP on Keleman &amp; Spelke due</i>	Kellman & Spelke (1983)
Feb 9	Infant Perception 3	DeCasper & Fifer (1980)
Feb 12	Infant Perception 4	Meltzoff & Moore (1977)
Feb 14	Infant Cognition 1	FMM, Ch 3, and pp 129-133
Feb 16	Infant Cognition 2	Wynn (1992)
Feb 21	Infant Cognition 3 <i>RP on Spelke et al due</i>	Spelke et al. (1992)
Feb 23	Research Lecture	Miller, Ch. 9
Feb 26	Infant Cognition 4 <i>RP on Quinn et al due</i>	Quinn et al. (2001)
Feb 28	Representations and Concepts 1	FMM, pp. 99-117 GMK, Ch. 3 (R)
Mar 2	Representations and Concepts 2 <i>RP on DeLoache due</i>	DeLoache (2000)
Mar 5	Representations and Concepts 3 <i>RP on Keil due</i>	Keil (1989) Ch. 8-9
Mar 7	<i>Midterm</i>	
Mar 9	Memory Development 1	FMM, Ch 7
Mar 12	Memory Development 2	Rovee-Collier (1999)
Mar 14	Memory Development 3 <i>RP on Bruck &amp; Ceci Due</i>	Bruck & Ceci (1999)
Mar 16	Children's Reasoning 1	FMM, pp. 149-158
Mar 19	Children's Reasoning 2 <i>RP on Gopnik et al due</i>	Gopnik et al. (2001)
	Lila Gleitman's public lecture March 19 at 7:30pm	
Mar 21	Children's Reasoning 3 <i>RP on Gleitman's Talk due</i> <i>(Extra Credit)</i>	FMM, pp. 159-176
Mar 23	Catch-Up Class	None

Apr 2	Folk Biology 1	FMM, pp. 117-124
Apr 4	Folk Biology 2 <i>RP on Inagaki &amp; Hatano due</i>	Inagaki & Hatano (1993)
Apr 6	Social Cognition 1 <i>Last Day to hand in a paper draft</i>	FMM, Ch 6, Flavell (1999) (R)
Apr 9	Social Cognition 2 <i>RP on Woodward et al due</i>	Woodward et al. (2001) Scaife & Bruner (1975) (R) GMK, Ch 2,
Apr 11	Social Cognition 3 <i>RP on Repacholi &amp; Gopnik due</i>	Repacholi & Gopnik (1997)
Apr 13	Social Cognition 4 <i>RP on Bartsch &amp; Wellman due</i>	Bartsch & Wellman (1989)
Apr 16	Social Cognition 5	Lillard (1993)
Apr 18	Atypical Development 1 <i>RP on Baron-Cohen et al due</i>	Baron-Cohen et al. (1985) GMK, Ch 6 (R)
Apr 20	Atypical Development 2 <i>RP on Johnson &amp; Carey due</i>	S. Johnson & Carey (1998)
Apr 23	Atypical Development 3	M. Johnson (2005), Ch. 8.
Apr 25	Big Picture <i>Receive Study guide for final</i>	FMM, Ch 9 GMK, Ch 7 (R)
Apr 27 (5:00pm)	<i>Paper Due</i> (Turn in to MRL 219)	
May 15 (9:00am)	<i>Final Exam</i> (Room TBD)	