INFANT DEVELOPMENT-Spring, 2006

Instructor: Dr. Susan Crockenberg; Office: 362 Dewey Hall

Class Time and Place: Tuesday/Thursday, 12:30-1:45, Angell/B203

Office Hours (362 Dewey): Tuesday - Thursday 2-3, and by appointment (via e-mail at: susan.crockenberg@uvm.edu). Indicate times when you can meet. I’ll respond as quickly as I can. You may contact me by phone at 656-4058, but if you do not reach me, please try my e-mail.

Course Goals

1. To provide in depth information on infant development in the context of larger issues in Developmental Psychology (e.g. nature/nurture).

2. To familiarize students with research design and methodology in relation to development in infancy, emphasizing that knowledge is only as valid as the methods used to obtain it.

3. To provide students with opportunities to integrate and communicate information and to apply knowledge to practice and social policy.

Course Format

In this upper-division class, lectures and student presentations will be combined with extensive class discussion. It is essential, therefore, that students complete the assigned reading before each class and participate fully in class discussions.

Assignments and Grades

There will be an essay-type, take home midterm and final, and student groups will present an empirical research study to the class. Other assignments may be given. Late assignments or exams are accepted only with prior permission, and may receive reduced grades. None are accepted after assignments are returned or discussed.

Class participation, assignments/quizzes, the class presentation (students receive an individual and a group grade that are averaged), midterm, and final exams are each 20% of the final grade. Attendance is required; missing more than 2 classes will result in a lowered final grade.

Topics and Readings

All readings are from 2 sources: Development in Infancy (2002), by Lamb, Bornstein, & Teti (LBT), and a set of readings available on electronic reserve.

Week 1: January 16th -Why We Study Infants and How We Do It

Reading: LBT, Ch. 1 and 3 (by Thursday)

Tuesday- Introduction to class; receive “My Baby Book” assignment

Thursday- Methods in infancy research (video)
Week 2: January 23rd – Genes, the Prenatal Environment, and Premature Birth

**Reading Tuesday:** LBT, Ch 4 (Physical Development); **Thursday:** Feldman et al (2002) -Skin-to-skin contact (Kangaroo Care) promotes self-regulation in premature infants: Sleep-Wake cyclicity, arousal modulation and sustained exploration. *Developmental Psychology, 38*, 194-207.

- Tuesday-Lecture: Genes and development: species-specific behavior/individual differences;
- **Baby Book Assignment due in class followed by small group discussions**

- Thursday-Lecture: Prenatal Influences on development/Prepare for NICU visit

Week 3: January 30th – Nervous System Development in Infancy

**Reading Thursday:** LBT, Ch. 5 (Nervous System Development in Infancy) and Ch 6 (Perceptual Development);

- Tuesday- Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) visit

- Thursday-Lecture: Nervous System Development and its Link to Behavioral Development

Week 4: February 6th: Early Perceptual and Cognitive Development (the first 12 months)

**Reading Tuesday:** Rutter, M., O’Connor, T., and the English and Romanian Adoptees (ERA) Study Team (2004). Are there biological programming effects for psychological development? Findings from a study of Romanian adoptees. *Developmental Psychology, 40*, 81-94. **Thursday:** LBT, Ch 7 (Mental Life in Infancy) pp. 205- 232; 240-245; Ch 8 (Representation in Infancy), pp. 246-266 to end of 2nd paragraph

- Tuesday- Student Presentation 1 of Rutter et al (2004) from Week 3

- Thursday- Lecture: Changes in Perceptual/Cognitive development in the First Year

Week 5: February 13th – Temperament in Infancy: Reactivity and Regulation

**Reading Tuesday:** LBT, Ch 10 (Emotions and Temperament in Infancy); Adamson, L. & Frick, J. The still face: A history of a shared experimental paradigm. *Infancy, 4*, 451-473.

- Tuesday- First Feelings video

- Thursday- Lecture: Infant temperament: Reactivity, regulation, and the role of the caregiver

Week 6: February 20th – Emotional/Social Development and Attachment


- Tuesday- Student presentation-2

- Thursday-Lecture: Theoretical Basis of Attachment and Attachment Security/Assessment Strange Situation video
Week 7: Feb 27th – Research on Attachment Security and Its Developmental Outcomes


Tuesday- Lecture: Correlates of Attachment Security/Insecurity: Causal Links?

Thursday- **Student Presentation 3; Take-home mid-term available**

Week 8: March 6th – The Economic Context of Development in Infancy

**Reading:** None this week; focus on Take-Home midterm

Tuesday- No class-Town Meeting Day

Thursday- Topic: Poverty and Infant Development; video and class discussion.

**Midterm exam due at beginning of class**

Week March 13th-Spring Break

Week 9: March 20th - Infant Development in Social Context: Fathers


Tuesday- Lecture: Fathers and Infant Development; **Return and discuss mid-term**

Thursday- **Class visit of Caregiving Father and His Infant**

Week 10: Mar 29th – Infant Development in Social Context: Marital/Coparental Relationships


Tuesday- Lecture: Do Adult Partner Relationships Impact Infant Development?

Thursday- **Student Presentation 4**

Week 11: April 3rd: Cognitive and Language Development: 10 - 24 Months

**Reading:** LBT, Ch 9 (Origins of Language Development), Ch 7 (Mental Life) pp. 233-245; Ch 8 (Representation) pp. 266 (start paragraph 3)-278.

Tuesday- Lecture/video: Facilitating Language Development through Gestures

Thursday- Language and “Intelligence”: The Bayley Scales of Infant Development
Week 12: April 10th - The Second Year: The Development of Self, Autonomy, & Limit-Setting


Tuesday-Self and Other: Implications for development

Thursday- **Student presentation-5**


Tuesday-Historical Background of Childcare Debate; Early Research/Methodological Issues

Thursday- **No class – Student visits to Childcare Settings**

Tuesday- Class Discussion of Childcare Visits

Thursday- **Student Debate on Childcare (Presentation 6)**

Week 15: May 1st - Implications for Intervention


Tuesday- Lecture/Small Groups: What We “Know”; What it Means for Intervention

**Final Take-Home Exam Available**

Final Exam due: Thursday, May 11th, by noon, at my office-362 Dewey