INFANT DEVELOPMENT-Spring, 2007

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

Class Time and Place: Tuesday/Thursday, 9:30-10:45, Angell/B203

Office Hours (362 Dewey): Tuesday - Thursday 11-12, 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 frequent quizzes, 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 15th - Why We Study Infants and How We Do It

Reading: LBT, Chapters 1 and 3 (by Thursday)

Tuesday- Introduction to class; methods in infancy research (video); receive “My Baby Book” assignment

Thursday-Quiz on Chapter 3, followed by group discussion of quiz questions, instructor review of key methodological issues
Week 2: January 22nd – How Genes and the Prenatal Environment Affect Development

**Reading Tuesday**: LBT, Ch 4 (Physical Development); **Thursday**: Schuetze, P. & Eiden, R., Dombkowski, L. (2006). The association between maternal cigarette smoking during pregnancy and maternal behavior during the neonatal period. *Infancy, 10*, 267-288.

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

Thursday – How to read a research article; bring assigned article to class

Week 3: January 29th – Nervous System Development and Premature Birth


Tuesday - Lecture: Nervous system development in the prenatal period; earliest environmental influences on development /**Prepare for NICU visit**

Thursday - **Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) visit**

Week 4: February 5th: Early Cognitive Development (the first 12 months)


Tuesday- Lecture: Differences in Cognitive Development during the First Year

Thursday - **Student Presentation 1** Daman-Wassarman et al (2006); **Quiz**

Week 5: February 12th – Predicting Later Development from Development in Infancy


Tuesday- **Standardized Tests of Infant Development**

Thursday- **Student Presentation 2** Rutter et al (2004); **quiz**

Week 6: February 19th – 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/discussion
Thursday- Lecture: Infant temperament: Reactivity, regulation, and the role of the caregiver

**Week 7: Feb 26th -- Social Development and Attachment**


Tuesday- **Student presentation-3; quiz; receive take home midterm questions, guidelines, and a model example of an excellent answer to a different question**

Thursday- Lecture: Theoretical Basis of Attachment and Attachment Security/Insecurity

**Week 8: March 5th – Developmental Outcomes of Attachment Security/Insecurity**


Tuesday- **No Class-Town Meeting Day**

Thursday- Assessing Attachment Security/Insecurity (video); midterm exams accepted

**Spring Break-March 12th - 16th**

**Week 9: March 19th – Infant Development in Economic and Cultural Context**


Tuesday- Topic: Poverty and Infant Development; video and class discussion; midterm exams due at beginning of class.

Thursday- **Student Presentation-4 Roopnarine et al (2005); quiz**


Tuesday- Lecture: Historical Background of Childcare Debate; Early Research/Methodological Issues; article; receive position paper assignment

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

**Week 11: April 2nd -- Infant Development in Social Context: Childcare and Peers (cont.)**

Tuesday- **Student Presentation 5** de Schipper et al (2006); **return and discuss midterms**

Thursday- Class Discussion of Childcare Visits; **Position papers due**

**Week 12: April 9th – Infant Development in Social Context: Marital/Coparental Relationships**


Tuesday- Lecture: Transition to parenthood, marital, and coparental relationships

Thursday- Family and Infant visit

**Week 13: April 16th Cognition and Language Development: 10 - 24 Months**


Tuesday- Lecture/video: Facilitating Language Development through Gestures

Thursday- **Student presentation-6** Pruden et al (2006); quiz

**Week 14: April 23rd – The Second Year: Development of Self, Autonomy, & Internal Control**


Tuesday-Self and Other: Implications for development; **final exam available**

Thursday- **Student presentation-7** Brownell et al (2006); quiz;

**Week 15: April 30th - Implications for Intervention**


Tuesday- Lecture: Translational Research: Moving from Research to Intervention; group time to work on final exam

**Final Exam due: Monday, May 7th, by noon, at my office (362 Dewey).**