

COGNITIVE AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

Psychology 352, Winter 2015

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M: 11:30-13:00, Biosci 1103

Th: 13:00-14:30, Biosci 1103

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Introduction and Overview

Children perceive, consider, and explain the world in ways that are sometimes similar, and sometimes dissimilar to the ways adults explain it. Where there are similarities, particularly similarities that can be seen in infants, we gain insight into how the human mind has evolved to understand the world. Dissimilarities, in contrast, flag the areas in which idiosyncratic experience, culture, and biological maturation play their roles in shaping how we come to think the way we do. The goal of this course is to provide an overview of the basic scientific enterprise of understanding the developmental origins of human cognition and language, and the mechanisms that cause change over the childhood period.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, successful students will be able to:

1. Compare the mechanisms of development proposed by the major developmental theories.
2. Apply the se theories to developmental situations to generate explanations and interventions.
3. Describe and explain the development of language, memory, social cognition, problem solving, and major concepts , as well as key research methodologies in these areas, to academic and lay audience s.
4. Examine primary information sources to identify the importance, methods, implications, and limitations of reported research

