

## Schedule

### ! Access to readings

Please try to retrieve readings from the library, using the citation and links in the schedule below. Doing so gives the library a more accurate count of article and book usage, and that helps in negotiations with publishers. If

Some readings will not be readily available. I am working my way through the reading list to make PDFs of these available via Canvas. So, please bear with me. The Canvas folder is [here](#).

### i Note

Karen Adolph shared the graduate cognitive development syllabus they used with NYU graduate students in Spring 2025. I have adopted considerable portions of their readings and assignment ideas.

## Week 01

**Friday, August 29, 2025**

### Topics & Readings

- Introduction to the course
- The cognitive sensibility
- *General Readings*: @Siegler2021-py Chapters 1 & 3; @Bayne2019-ot; @Simmering2010-ba; @Ritter2014-eq Chapter 11
- Slides: | [html](#) |

### Assignment

- Complete presentation preference [survey](#). (Sign-in with your PSU access ID, e.g., rog1).

## Week 02

**Friday, September 5, 2025**

### Topics & Readings

- Theoretical foundations: Piaget

- *General Readings*: @Siegler2021-py Chapter 2; @Piaget1952-dm Chapter III | [pdf on Canvas](#) | ; @Newcombe2013-qy

## Week 03

Friday, September 12, 2025

### Topics

- Piaget: Deep dive
  - *Student presentation A*: How robust is the evidence for Piaget's trajectories? (*Presenter*: Alyssa Swift; *Discussant*: Jingyi He)
    - \* *Read*: @Elkind1961-ns; @Gelman1972-we
  - *Student presentation B*: When does object permanence emerge? (*Presenter*: Makenna Luzenski; *Discussant*: Zeynep Sülün)
    - \* *Read*: @Baillargeon1985-vl; @Baillargeon2008-gz

## Week 04

Friday, September 19, 2025

### Topics & Readings

- Nativism, core knowledge, and its discontents
  - *General Readings*: @Spelke2007-ts; @Spencer2009-jo; @Spelke2009-xx; @Laudau2009-jl; @Spencer2009-xu

## Week 05

Friday, September 26, 2025

### Topics & Readings

- Nativism and Core Knowledge: Deep dive

- *Student Presentation C*: How does changing the task inform on the underlying construct(s) about physical knowledge? (*Presenter*: Carlos Almeida; *Discussant*: Yeonjin Kim)
  - \* *Read*: @Spelke1992-re; @Hood2000-yd; @Keen2003-vj
- *Student Presentation D*: Rich interpretation of group differences in infant looking-time paradigms: How rich is dangerous? Necessary? Productive? (*Presenter*: Suzy Su; *Discussant*: Makenna Luzeknski)
  - \* *Read*: @Aslin2007-yt; @Paulus2022-fg; @Stahl2022-fy; @Haith1998-vu

## Week 06

**Friday, October 3, 2025**

### Topics & Readings

- Constructivism & its variants
  - *General Readings*: @Newcombe2011-wd; @Mareschal2011-fw; @Karmiloff-Smith2009-zs; @Spencer2011-fp; @Newcombe2011-pn

## Week 07

**Friday, October 10, 2025**

- Constructivism: Deep dive
  - *Student Presentation E*: How do developmental disorders inform our understanding of cognitive development? (*Presenter*: Katie Billetdeaux; *Discussant*: Pratt Srinivasan)
    - \* *Read*: @Karmiloff-Smith1998-be
  - *Student Presentation F*: The risks of generalization (*Presenter*: Olivia Bell; *Discussant*: Carlos Almeida)
    - \* *Read*: @Packer2022-gn; @Kominsky2022-we; @Lucca2025-gy

## Week 08

Friday, October 17, 2025

### Topics & Readings

- Emergentism & dynamic systems
  - *General Readings*: @Thelen2003-tt; @Thelen1063-vk

## Week 09

Friday, October 24, 2025

### Topics & Readings

- Emergentism & dynamic systems: Deep dive
  - *Student Presentation G*: A connectionist model to explain why infants seem so smart
    - \* *Read*: @Munakata1997-zx (*Presenter*: Zeynep Sülün; *Discussant*: Caesar Liu)
  - *Student Presentation H*: Emergentism and variants of the A-not-B task
    - \* *Read*: @Smith1999-xz (*Presenter*: Natalie Byrd; *Discussant*: Jiayi Fan)

## Week 10

Friday, October 31, 2025

### Topics & Readings

- Embodied cognition
  - *General Readings*: @Pfeifer2006-nx; @Smith2018-nc
- *Student Presentation I*: Does development gate input to prevent a “blooming, buzzing confusion?” (*Presenter* Luke Debec; *Discussant*: Alyssa Swift)
  - *Read*: @Kretch2014-ck; @Franchak2018-oj
- *Student Presentation J*: How AI & robotics inform developmental science? (*Presenter*: Pratt Srinivasan; *Discussant*: Hannah Huang)
  - *Read*: @Ossmy2018-fr; @Ossmy2024-qj

## Week 11

Friday, November 7, 2025

### Topics & Readings

- Sociocultural development
  - *Read:* @Siegler2021-py Chapter 4; @Tomasello2016-rx

## Week 12

Friday, November 14, 2025

### Topics & Readings

- Sociocultural development: Deep dive
  - *Student Presentation K:* Imitation in cultural learning (*Presenter:* Hanna Huang; *Discussant:* TBD)
    - \* *Read:* @Legare2015-im; @Herrmann2013-rb; @Lyons2007-ng
  - *Student Presentation L:* Gesture (*Presenter:* Jingyi He; *Discussant:* Katie Billedet-deaux)
    - \* *Read:* @Novack2015-kl; @Wakefield2018-tq

## Week 13

Friday, November 21, 2025

### Topics & Readings

- Learning from others
  - *General Readings:* @Gelman2009-jg; @Sobel2013-lb
  - *Student Presentation M:* Learning from testimony (*Presenter:* TBD; *Discussant:* Luke Debec)
    - \* *Read:* @Harris2018-eh; @Jaswal2010-dz

## Thanksgiving Break

NO CLASS

## Week 14

Friday, December 5, 2025

### Topics & Readings

- Conceptual development
  - *General Readings:* @Siegler2021-py Chapter 8; @Mandler1992-vb
  - *Student Presentation N:* Naive psychology (*Presenter:* Jiayi Fan : *Discussant:* Suzy Su)
    - \* *Read:* @Onishi2005-co; @Wellman2012-ny; @Ding2015-bp

## Week 15

Friday, December 12, 2025

### Topics & Readings

- Systems
  - *Read:* @Bronfenbrenner1977-cm, @Oyama2001-cf, @Hartley2022-dd
  - *Student Presentation O:* Poverty is bad for cognition. (*Presenter:* Yeonjin Kim; *Discussant:* Olivia Bell)
    - \* *Read:* @Taylor2020-dp; @Amso2020-jo
  - *Student Presentation P:* Poverty can be adaptive for cognition. (*Presenter:* Caesar Liu; *Discussant:* Natalie Byrd)
    - \* *Read:* @Frankenhuis2016-wl; @Frankenhuis2020-ld