Schedule

Week 01

Friday, August 29, 2025

Topics

- Introduction to the course
- What is cognition?
- Why study cognitive development?
- How to study cognitive development?

General Readings

- @Siegler2021-py Chapters 1 & 3; @Bayne2019-ot; @Simmering2010-ba; @Ritter2014-eq Chapter 11

Assignment

- Complete presentation preference survey.

Week 02

Friday, September 5, 2025

Topics & Readings

- Theoretical foundations: Piaget
    - *General Readings*: @Siegler2021-py Chapter 2; @Piaget1952-dm; @Newcombe2013-qy

Week 03

Friday, September 12, 2025

Topics

- Piaget: Deep dive

- *Student presentation A*: How robust is the evidence for Piaget's trajectories?
    * *Read*: @Elkind1961-ns; @Gelman1972-we
- *Student presentation B*: When does object permanence emerge?
    * *Read*: @Baillargeon1985-vl; @Baillargeon2008-gz

Week 04

Friday, September 19, 2025

Topics & Readings

- Nativism and Core Knowlege

  - *General Readings*: @Spelke2007-ts; @Spencer2009-jo; @Spelke2009-xx; @Landau2009-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?
      * *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?
  - *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?
    * *Read*: @Karmiloff-Smith1998-be
  - *Student Presentation F*: The risks of generalization
    * *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
  - *Student Presentation H*: Emergentism and variants of the A-not-B task
    * *Read*: @Smith1999-xz

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?"
    - *Read*: @Kretch2014-ck; @Franchak2018-oj
- *Student Presentation J*: How AI & robotics inform developmental science?
    - *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
        * *Read*: @Legare2015-im; @Herrmann2013-rb; @Lyons2007-ng
    - *Student Presentation L*: Gesture
        * *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
        * *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
        * *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.
        * *Read*: @Taylor2020-dp; @Amso2020-jo

- *Student Presentation P*: Poverty can be adaptive for cognition.
  * *Read*: @Frankenhuis2016-wl; @Frankenhuis2020-ld