Advanced Topics in Social Development  
EDHD 820: Spring, 2015  
Course Syllabus

This course is an advanced doctoral graduate seminar on the topic of social development with a focus on social predispositions, intentionality, theory of mind, origins of morality, formation of social inequalities, social exclusion, prejudice, and bias. Classic articles as well as new lines of research, which have integrated various aspects of social psychology and moral development, reveal how individuals conceptualize social relationships, the moral principles that underlie social interactions, and the mental state knowledge (theory of mind) necessary for becoming a member of a family, community, and culture. We will read current “cutting edge” articles drawing from social cognitive development, moral development, developmental social psychology, theory of mind, resource allocation, and intergroup attitudes. This course is permission of instructor only.

Course Requirements and Grading. Students will be required to give oral presentations each week, and will be working on research projects and writing research papers related to the course topic. Presenters are "discussion facilitators." Grading will be as follows: 50% for oral presentations, 20% for weekly discussion questions, and 30% for written papers related to the topic of the seminar. The entire class is responsible for discussing the readings, issues, and bringing in related research issues.

Course Structure and Readings. Selected articles will be drawn from different journals and books. All readings will be distributed via email or as pdf files available online. NOTE: Several of the authors of the articles will be presenting their research at the Center for Children, Relationships, and Culture colloquia series (see flyer distributed in class).

Course Objectives. To help students:
- Gain knowledge about theory and research in the area of social development at an advanced level.
- Understand the scientific method and acquire the ability to formulate research questions.
- Develop critical reading, writing, and presentational skills through reading assignments, writing assignments, group discussions of theoretical material, and class presentations of current research findings.

Class Attendance. Students should attend each class session, except in the case of illness and/or extenuating circumstances. Please inform the instructor of missed absences with an explanation.
Academic Dishonesty. It is assumed that all students understand the consequences of academic dishonesty at the University of Maryland. If you do not, please consult the graduate catalog or course registration booklet to become familiar with how cheating, fabrication, facilitation of academic dishonesty, and plagiarism are defined by the University.

Students with Disabilities. If you are a student with a documented physical or learning disability, please contact me by the first week of class so that we can make arrangements for the necessary accommodations.

Jan. 29
Introduction
Advanced topics in social development: Overview of theory, research, and application

Feb 5
Social Exclusion, Moral Judgment, and Group Identity


Presenters:

Feb 12
Resource Allocation: Justice and Fairness


Presenters:

Feb 19
Social Inequalities: Children’s Judgments and Experiences
DOI:10.1177/0003122413515997


Presenters:

Feb 26

**Intergroup Helping, Empathy, and Intentionality**


Presenters:

Mar 5

**Origins of Cooperation and Morality**


Hepach, R., Vaish, A., & Tomasello, M. (2012). Young children are intrinsically motivated to see others helped. Psychological Science, 23, 967-972
Presenters:

March 12

Early Origins of Morality


Two short commentaries:


Presenters:

March 15 – 22

SPRING BREAK

March 26

Morality and Theory of Mind


**Presenters:**

**April 2**

**Intergroup Bias in Social Encounters**


**Presenters:**

**April 9**

**Ethnic Identity and Prejudice**


**April 16**

**Social Cognition about The Role of Parents and Authority in Social Development**


Presenters:

**April 23**

**Bullying, Victimization, Challenging Group Norms: Dissenters and Deviants**


Presenters:

**Apr 30**

**Social Experience and School Environments for Promoting Positive Development**


Presenters:

**May 7**

**Presentations**

Students will present their current research to the class.