

Fall IMH Dual-Title Course Learning Goals, Key Assignments, Readings and Ideas for Helping Interns see the Clinical Relevance of Course Material

Psychology of Infant Behavior and Development: PSY 7425

Readings for this course are diverse and numerous and cover multiple domains of infant and toddler development. Two texts are also required for this course:

1. Fogel, A. (2011). *Infancy: A topical approach* (1st edition). Cornwall-on-Hudson, New York: Sloan Publishing.
2. Zeanah, C. H. (Ed.) (2009). *Handbook of infant mental health* (3rd edition). New York: Guilford Press.

Course Learning Objectives

1. Acquire a solid base of knowledge about contemporary developmental theories and methodology in the study of infant behavior and development.
 - Key Assignment: Take home quizzes are assigned that help the students consolidate and retain the material they are learning from their weekly readings.
2. Become familiar and demonstrate the capacity to critically evaluate the current research on different domains of infant development (e.g., physical, cognitive, etc.).
 - Key Assignment: Students provide a written analysis and then engage in class discussion of weekly readings.
3. Gain a deeper understanding of the social ecology of infancy, including the effects of variations in parenting, cultural context, and the presence of risk and protective factors.
 - Key Assignment: Students write a integrative research-based term paper on one of the following topics: 1) Risk and protective factors, 2) Development of socio-emotional competence in a relational context, 3) IMH intervention programs, 4) Development of emotion regulation in infancy, 5) A contemporary topic related to infant perception or cognition.
4. Develop an understanding of the clinical and practical significance of infancy research for prevention, intervention and social policy and gain experience in the presentation and critical analysis of this research.
 - Key Assignment: Presentation of an empirical journal article.

Ideas to Help Interns see the Clinical Relevance of Course Material

1. Ask interns to “tell me about the baby” in terms of the baby’s development in various domains (e.g., physical, motor, perceptual, cognitive, language, emotional, self, social, etc.) and in terms of the environmental factors (e.g., family violence, poverty, etc.) that might be influencing early development.
2. Ask them to tell you about their research paper and what specialized knowledge they have gained from writing their paper.
3. Ask your interns to practice their presentation of an empirical journal article with you – perhaps at a staff meeting.