

FIU – Department of Psychology – PSY5939 – U07
Motor Development

PREREQUISITE

Graduate standing. Undergraduate students may cross-enroll in PSY4930-U03 with permission.

CLASS MEETINGS

Wednesdays 5:00– 7:40 pm GC 272

INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Eliza Nelson

Office Hours: T/Th 11:00 – 12:00 pm or by appointment (DM 201A)

Email: elnelson@fiu.edu

NOTE: For a timely reply, email me directly. Do not send me a message via Blackboard. Please let me know whenever possible if you will miss class. Under special circumstances, extensions on assignments may be given for excused absences (i.e., illness, death in the family).

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND LEARNING GOALS

Students will primarily survey infant motor development. The course is structured into four parts: theory, research, assessment, and intervention. Topics include motor control and the brain, postural control, manual control, locomotion, and developmental disorders.

By the end of the course, you will be able to:

- Describe and explain processes in infant motor development
- Critically compare and contrast theoretical perspectives in motor development
- Evaluate empirical research on infant motor development and related subfields
- Be able to select appropriate motor assessments for typical and atypical populations

REQUIRED READINGS

- *Infant Motor Development*, Jan Piek (2005, 1e) ISBN-13: 9780736002264
- Other required and recommended readings will be posted on Blackboard

GRADING

<i>Component</i>	<i>Point Value</i>	<i>% Final Grade</i>
Lecture Attendance/Discussion	50	10%
Weekly Reading Responses	100	20%
Midterm 1	125	25%
Midterm 2	125	25%
Final Presentation	100	20%

Attendance at each of 10 lectures is worth 5 points. Each reading response is worth 10 points when submitted on time. The Week 1 reading response is a reflection on the material from the first lecture, and is due with the Week 2 response. Late responses are automatically given half credit (5 points), unless excused by Dr. Nelson. **The grand possible total is 500 points.**

To determine your final letter grade, use the conversion chart below:

LETTER GRADE CONVERSION

A: 94-100%	A-: 90-93%	B+: 87-89%	B: 83-86%	B-: 80-82%	
C+: 77-79%	C: 73-76%	C-: 70-72%	D+: 67-69%	D: 60-66	F: 59 & below

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Any instance of academic misconduct (e.g., plagiarism, cheating, collusion, academic dishonesty) will be reported to the University for further action. Please refer to your graduate student handbook, or ask me if you are unsure about what constitutes misconduct. Additional details are available at this website: <http://gradschool.fiu.edu/academic-misconduct.shtml>

LECTURE ATTENDANCE/DISCUSSION

Attendance is required in this course. You will be asked to sign in weekly. There are 10 required lectures. Class does not meet on Veterans Day (11/11) or the week of Thanksgiving (11/25).

READING RESPONSES

Short reactions (2-3 paragraphs) to the assigned readings are due by **noon on Tuesdays**. Responses should be sent via email (elnelson@fiu.edu). Please copy and paste your response into the body of your email – do not send an attachment. Your responses should be thoughtful and include discussion questions. The first reading response is a reflection on the material from the first lecture, and should be turned in as its own separate reaction with the second response. You are responsible for 10 reading responses in total.

On-time responses are credited 10 points. Late responses are credited 5 points. Any response that does not meet expectations will be penalized 2 points, whether it's on-time or turned in late.

NONCUMULATIVE MIDTERM EXAMS

There are two noncumulative in-class midterm exams for this course. Midterm 1 (9/30) covers material from Weeks 1-5, and Midterm 2 (11/18) covers material from Weeks 7-11. A list of test questions will be distributed the week before the exam. Questions will be selected from the list. You will have the entire class period to write your exam. No outside material is permitted.

FINAL PRESENTATION

You will present on the topic of your choosing related to motor development during the final class meeting. Please see the separate handout available on Blackboard for presentation guidelines. Talks should be 8 minutes in length with 2 minutes for questions. You will be asked to evaluate your peers, and these scores will be part of the grade. Your talk should incorporate theoretical and empirical literature.

Presentations will take place in class on December 2nd. Email slides by 5 pm.

KEY DATES

Midterm 1	09/30	
No Class	11/11	{Veterans Day}
Midterm 2	11/18	
No Class	11/25	{Thanksgiving}
Presentations	12/02	

LECTURE SCHEDULE

Subject to change. All readings due on the date indicated. Responses due by noon Tuesdays.
 P = Piek textbook. B = required PDF reading on Blackboard (posted 1 week prior to due date).

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Material</u>
Week 1: Introduction	08/26	P1 – Reflection due 09/01
Week 2: Theory	09/02	P2 – Response due 09/01
Week 3: Motor control and the brain	09/09	P3 – Response due 09/08
Week 4: Postural control	09/16	P4 / B1 – Response due 09/15
Week 5: Manual control	09/23	P5 / B2 – Response due 09/22
Week 6: Exam 1	09/30	Material from Weeks 1-5
Week 7: Locomotion	10/07	P6 / B3 – Response due 10/06
Week 8: Perceptual development	10/14	B4 – Response due 10/13
Week 9: Sociocultural influences	10/21	B5 – Response due 10/20
Week 10: Assessment	10/28	P7-9 – Response due 10/27
Week 11: Developmental Disorders	11/04	P10-12 – Response due 11/03
Week 12: NO CLASS: VETERANS DAY	11/11	N/A
Week 13: Exam 2	11/18	Material from Weeks 7-11
Week 14: NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING	11/25	N/A
Week 15: Presentations	12/02	Email slides by 5 pm