Advanced Topics in Social Development
EDHD 820: Fall, 2017
Course Syllabus

This course is an advanced doctoral graduate seminar on the topic of social development with a focus on morality, social groups, and psychological knowledge (intentionality). 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 from a critical perspective, identifying novel findings and areas for future lines of research. 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.

Course Structure and Readings. All readings will be distributed via pdf files available online on a Google Drive (or distributed on email if access to Google Drive is not available).

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.
Aug 29
Introduction
Advanced topics in social development: Overview of theory and research

Sept 5
Social Development: Morality, Intentionality, and Group Identity


Presenters:

Sept 12
Developing Moral Principles


Presenters:

Sept 19
Understanding Others’ Intentions


Presenters:

Sept 26
Belonging to Groups


Presenters:

Oct 3
Intersections: Intentionality and Morality


Presenters:

Oct 10
Intersections: Morality, Group Identity, and Bias


**Presenters:**

**Oct 17**  
**Intersections: Children’s Judgments about Challenging Social Inequalities**


**Presenters:**

**Oct 24**  
**Social Contexts: Theories and Methods for Reducing Bias and Prejudice**


**Presenters:**

**Oct 31**  
**Social Contexts: The Consequences of Intergroup Bias**


Yip, T. (2016). To be or not to be: How ethnic/racial stereotypes influence ethnic/racial dis-identification and psychological mood. *Cultural diversity and ethnic minority psychology, 22*, 238-46. DOI: 10.1037/t05150-000

**Presenters:**

**Nov 7**  
**Social Contexts: Expectations about Schools, Authority, and Social Bias**


**Presenters:**

**Nov 14**  
**Creating Change: Addressing Group Norms, Categorization, and Relationships**


**Presenters:**

**Nov 21**  
**Creating Change: Promoting Intergroup Friendships**


**Presenters:**

**Nov 28**  
**Creating Change: Academic Success and Positive School Climates**


**Dec 5**  
**Presentations**

Students will present their current research to the class