

Dynamics of Learning and Development

Psyc 397 9:20 am - 10:35 am TR Linderman 400

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The processes that generate development in infants and children are much less well known than are some of the landmarks along the trajectories of that development. In this class, we will explore some of what has been written about this, though it is a remarkably small percent of the overall developmental literature, and also explore a possible model for these processes.

A related issue concerns the relationship(s) between learning and development. In some views, learning is all there is; in others, learning and development are fundamentally different processes. I will suggest a model in which learning and development are differing aspects of one underlying kind of process.

Grades in this course will be based on two considerations:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| 1) two take home exams, | 75% |
| 2) class participation. | 25% |

The class will be a seminar, with readings decided as our discussions proceed. Some of the sources that we will use include, but will not be limited to:

Goswami, U. (2004). *Blackwell Handbook of Childhood Cognitive Development*.
Oxford: Blackwell. **G**

Morra, S., Gobbo, C., Marini, Z., Sheese, R. (2008). *Cognitive Development*. New
York: Erlbaum. **M**

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Jan

13

15 Valsiner, J., Connolly, K. (2003). *Handbook of Developmental Psychology*.
London: Sage. Introduction G Chapters 23, 24

20 G Chapters 25, 26, 27

22

27 *Child Dev* Nov/Dec 08 Readings

29

Feb

3 Stepping Off the Pendulum Jed Allen

5

10 Bickhard, M. H. (2006). Developmental Normativity and Normative
Development. In L. Smith, J. Voneche (Eds.) *Norms in Human Development*.
(57-76). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

12

17 G 2, 3

19

24 G 14, 17

26

Mar

3 Spring Break

5 Spring Break

10 G 20,22

12 mid-term distributed

17 mid-term due

19 **G** 6, 9

24 Bickhard, M. H. (2001). Why Children Don't Have to Solve the Frame Problems: Cognitive Representations are not Encodings. *Developmental Review*, 21, 224-262. Bickhard, M. H. (1992). Commentary on the Age 4 Transition. *Human Development*, 35(3), 182-192.

26

31 **M** 1, 3

Apr

2

7 **M** 6, 7 Bickhard, M. H. (1993). Staircase? How Can We Tell? Review of *The Mind's Staircase* by Robbie Case. *American Journal of Psychology*, 106(4), 577-633.

9

14 **M** 10

16

21 Bickhard, M. H. (2008). Are You Social? The Ontological and Developmental Emergence of the Person. In U. Müller, J. I. M. Carpendale, N. Budwig, B. Sokol (Eds.) *Social Life and Social Knowledge*. (17-42). New York: Taylor & Francis.
Bickhard, M. H. (2003). An Integration of Motivation and Cognition. In Smith, L., Rogers, C., Tomlinson, P. (Eds.) *Development and motivation: joint perspectives*. Leicester: British Psychological Society, Monograph Series II, 41-56.

23 Last day of class Pass out final exam

28 Final exam due

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting accommodations, please contact both your instructor and the Office of Academic Support Services, University Center C212 (610-758-4152) as early as possible in the semester. You must have documentation from the Academic Support Services office before accommodations can be granted.