Welcome to Social Development! The goal of this course is to provide a broad overview of how children behave in and think about the social world, and how this changes over the course of development. We will touch on adolescence and adulthood in some places, as exploring relatively mature states can shed additional light on developmental processes. In our survey of children’s social development, we will examine topics such as: innate and early-emerging social knowledge, influences of parents and peers, moral development, social cognition, theory of mind, aggression, victimization, identity development, social categorization and bias, and the influence of culture on development. We won’t dedicate entire lectures to broad theoretical perspectives (e.g., evolutionary psychology, Piaget, Vygotsky, etc.), but will instead examine them as they relate to the topics listed on the schedule below.

Course Requirements

Please read the assigned articles before each lecture. Exams will include material from both the readings and the lectures, so lecture attendance is important.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Requirement</th>
<th>Undergraduate Students</th>
<th>Graduate Students</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Response Papers</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study Pool Participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Section</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam [at-home exam]</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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Response Papers
Twice during the semester you will choose a topic that especially intrigues you and write a 4-page paper on that issue. Details on this assignment will be provided on the course website, and during the second week of class. Model papers will also be provided.

Study Pool Participation
Undergraduates are expected to participate in 2 psychology studies that are listed on the Study Pool website. Studies can be of any length. An alternative assignment can be arranged if you do not wish to participate in psychological r
**Term Paper**
Undergraduate students will be expected to write a 5-6-page literature review exploring a topic of interest. Graduate students will be expected to write a 10-12-page paper written in APA style. Your paper can either be (a) an experiment proposal related to a topic discussed in class, or (b) a literature review in which you explore in some depth one of the topic areas we explored in class. Specific expectations for the undergraduate and graduate papers will be provided in class and on the course website, along with helpful information about writing in APA style.

**Midterm and Final Exams**
The two exams will draw from both the readings and the lectures, and will include multiple choice and short-answer questions. The midterm exam will be a take-home test, and the final exam will take place in class. Both exams will be open-notes.

**Discussion Sections**
Discussion sections will be designed to include opportunities for review of course material, critical thinking about readings and lecture material, and interactive discussion. Solid plans for section times will be announced after enrollment numbers and TA slots are finalized. For now, we are thinking about holding 45-minute sections before and after class. You don’t need to come to section every week. We are asking that you come to four sections during the semester. If your schedule doesn’t allow you to attend pre- or post-lecture sections, we will have an online discussion board for the class, and you can participate there instead.

**Policies**
Papers must be turned in at the beginning of class on the day they are due. Any assignment received after this time will automatically receive a grade deduction. Further deductions will follow for each day late. If you cannot complete an assignment due to a medical issue or other emergency, please contact the instructor.

Be sure you understand the University’s guidelines on academic integrity before submitting any assignment. See the teaching staff if you have any questions about plagiarism. Any work that has been confirmed to be plagiarized will receive a grade of 0, and further discipline at the university level may follow.

**Required course materials**
There are no required textbooks for this course. You will be reading articles published in psychology journals and edited books. All of them will be available for download through the Harvard Library’s electronic resources portals, or from the course website. More information will be shared about the readings during the first class. At certain points in the semester the syllabus may be updated to include new or alternative readings. Advance notice will be given if this happens.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Date</th>
<th>Subject and Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sept 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Social Knowledge &amp; Behavior in Newborns and Infants</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sept 9</strong></td>
<td><strong>Attachment &amp; Temperament</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Sept 16</strong></td>
<td><strong>Parenting, Childcare, and the Development of Young Children</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Sept 23</strong></td>
<td><strong>Theory of Mind</strong></td>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
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### Social Categorization and Intergroup Dynamics

### Aggression

### Motivation and Achievement in Childhood

### The Development of Gender Roles

### IN-CLASS FINAL EXAM