

INFANT DEVELOPMENT (DEP 6930)

Prof. David J. Lewkowicz



Infant Development, Fall, 2005 (Prof. Lewkowicz)

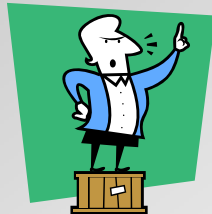
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Structure of Course

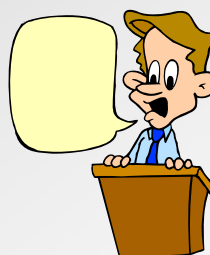
- Chapters in Kellman & Arterberry book & assigned articles



- My Lectures



- Student Presentations & Discussions



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Pondering Your Job

"Now I can sit and play and automatically do something fresh and not be overly concerned with it. I'm really a craftsman now and not so worried about my proficiency. A good deal of my life has been spent as an apprentice, right up to my 50s, I'd say."

Eric Clapton, September 1, 2005



Your Responsibility

You will:

- be expected to read all readings assigned for a particular week so that you can take part in the discussion
- be expected to contribute to class discussion
- present 2 papers during the semester



My Responsibility

- To make you **THINK**
- To make the process of problem solving as explicit as possible and, thus, make you into a scientist
- To be a facilitator



My Philosophy

- I believe in ACTIVE learning
- This means that you, as the student, do most of the heavy lifting
- I will help you navigate the waters and point the way
- Naturally, I will point you my way and may lead you either down the garden-path to theoretical paradise or down the mud-path to theoretical confusion
- Most of all, I want to shake you up and make you think in new ways (unless, of course, you have already been converted 😊)



Our Goals

- To find out about the process of development
 - To understand WHAT develops
 - To understand HOW it develops
 - We will not discuss WHY things develop in detail, although given that EvoDevo is the rage around here, we will touch on this topic whenever relevant
- The “HOW” question will be our principal focus because the ultimate goal of developmental science is to understand the processes underlying the development of a particular function



Class Presentations

- Based on articles posted on the class web site
- The recommended length for each presentation is 30 minutes and you may use Power Point for your presentation, but will not be downgraded if you do not use it (content counts over style)
- Suggested structure of your presentation:
 - ☐ the purpose of the study
 - ☐ the research methods used
 - ☐ the results obtained
 - ☐ the conclusions drawn by the authors
 - ☐ your own evaluation of the work and subsequent class discussion led by you



The BIG & Wrong Question



Common Lore



Hey, man, I was born to sing
and dance like Elvis!



Introduction

➤ Questions:

- Why is it important to study infants?



➤ Because they can help us answer questions such as:

- Is intelligence innate or learned?
- Is our behavior instinctive?
- Is language innate?
- How important is experience?
- Are there critical periods in development?
- Is development plastic?
- How can we help developmentally disabled infants?

