

CCNM17-CN-104: Cognitive Developmental Research Course Description

Aim of the course

Aim of the course: This course aims at overviewing the most important methods of developmental research, namely the special role of observation in developmental psychology.

Learning outcome, competences

knowledge:

- Knowledge on the most important models of development
- Current methods and main objectives in Developmental research

attitude:

- Utilisation of knowledge in scientific communication, presentation

skills:

- Skills of applying main methods
- Skills of identifying adequate methods for developmental problems

Content of the course

Topics of the course

- Methodology of observation:
 - design;
 - selection of categories; q
 - quantitative attributes of observational variables;
 - methods of recording;
 - instruments;
 - reliability;
 - evaluation. Experiments in developmental research.
- The natural and the quasi experiments.
- Cross-sectional and longitudinal strategy, and the possibilities of their combination.
- Data analysis.
- Interpretation of results - mediator and moderator effect.

Learning activities, learning methods

Lectures and interactive discussions

Evaluation of outcomes

Learning requirements, mode of evaluation, criteria of evaluation:

requirements

- Reliable basic knowledge in the domain of neuroscience and neuroanatomy

mode of evaluation: examination and practical course mark

criteria of evaluation:

- Knowledge on the criteria and limitations of application of a specific method;

Reading list

Compulsory reading list

- Greene, S. & Hogan, D. (2005). Researching Children's Experience: Approaches and Methods. London ; Thousand Oaks, Calif : Sage Pub.

- Martin, P., & Bateson, P . (2007). *Measuring behaviour: An introductory guide*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Miller, S. A. (2007). *Developmental Research Methods*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Pub.
- Teti, D. (2006). *Handbook of Research Methods in Developmental Science* (Blackwell Handbooks of Research Methods in Psychology). Cambridge: Blackwell.

Recommended reading list

- If any, it shall be specified in the course description for each semester.