

Inceptions in cognitive development. Spring 2021

830:638 (Cognitive Program Psychology) and 185:601 (Cognitive Science)

On-line synchronous (Zoom) Tuesdays 3:00-6:00pm

Alan M. Leslie

This course focuses on some of the major findings from the last 40 years of studying the cognitive capacities of infants and young preschoolers. During that period the mind-brain operates with some abstract and powerful ideas that are essentially inherent. We will explore some proposals for the core cognitive architecture that has these properties.

Topics will include the ideas of agency and agents; objects and causes; the natural numbers; pretending and believing; intentional action and its evaluation. These ideas organize attention, learning, and development within the preschool years and dominate our thought for the rest of our lives. To this extent, we will be exploring fundamental aspects of human nature.