Aim of the course

The goal of the course is to lay the foundations of applied developmental psychology and to give insight to the psychological work with at risk children. The course give knowledge about family risk and development in risky environment, about protective factors which are important for prevention and intervention. The students will learn about atypical development, dysfunctional families and about the heterogeneity in developmental outcome. Knowledge will be based on current empirical findings and the consequences for practice will be discussed. The course deals with the ways how students can use developmental psychological knowledge in understanding cases of children or families.

Learning outcome, competences

knowledge:
- knowledge about risk factors within and outside families
- understanding the certain dynamics within families; knowledge about typical reactions and roles of children living in high risk environment
- an overall view of disorganized attachment, atypical parent-child interactions and parenting
- knowledge of the role of loss and trauma in child development
- understanding of the psychological aspects of adoption

attitude:
- capable of thinking in system theories; complex view of the multidetermined feature of development
- thinking in risk and protective factors
- intention to recognise family strengths and coping capacities
- aspiration for reading current articles in the field of developmental psychology and applied developmental science

skills:
- capable of applying developmental psychological knowledge during case analyses
- can understand that certain environmental effects might impact upon child’s development differently in relation to the child’s age
- capable of analyse the risk and protective factors and understand the mechanisms when facing with a child’s developmental history

Content of the course

Topics of the course
- Mother-child interaction and attachment
- Alcohol and drug abuse of parents
- Child maltreatment
- Divorce and repartnering, patchwork families
- Parental mental illness and child development
- Bullying
- Adoption
- Loss in family, grieving
- Recovery from trauma
Learning activities, learning methods

**Evaluation of outcomes**

Learning requirements, mode of evaluation, criteria of evaluation:

- compulsory readings for the classes
- paper: how the student can apply his/her knowledge of development in understanding children and families

mode of evaluation: ………grades (1-5)…. 

criteria of evaluation:
- level of knowledge and understanding

**Reading list**

**Compulsory reading list**


**Recommended reading list**