San José State University
ChAD 106
Concepts of Childhood
Spartans Online Fall 2013 (Oct. 5 - Dec. 19)

Ancient sculpture of a young girl
from the ministry of Greek culture,
Museum of Brauron.

Greek children 1945

**Instructor:** Toni Campbell
Sweeney Hall, 201  (408) 924-3725

**Contact Information:** [toni.campbell@sjsu.edu](mailto:toni.campbell@sjsu.edu) use only for emergencies or non course-related messages. Otherwise, all communications about the course take place within the online shell.
Office hours: By appointment and online

Required reading: All the required readings are available in the electronic course reserves at the SJSU library: http://library.sjsu.edu/course-reserves/course-reserves

Course description and objectives:
Most dictionaries define childhood as the period between birth and puberty; however that simple description does little to capture the many connotations of the concept. This course is designed to explore the meaning of childhood to people of differing times and of differing cultures. The content of the course will guide students through an exploration of the historical diversity in the ways in which childhood has been defined, and in the development and clarification of their own concept of the meaning of childhood. A second major course goal will be to investigate cultural variations in ideas about what constitutes childhood. Throughout the course, emphasis will be placed on assisting students to understand that there is no single set of ideas about what childhood is. A third focus will be the impact on children's development and on society of the beliefs held by adults about childhood.

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:
1. Describe and systematically compare concepts of childhood from a variety of perspectives (e.g., cultural, historical, psychological, philosophical);
2. Discuss the effect of differing concepts on childhood on the experiences of children;
3. Identify the historical context of ideas and cultural traditions outside the United States, and how they have influenced American culture; and
4. Clearly articulate their own views on the concept of childhood.

Course prerequisites:
This course meets the Advanced GE requirement in Area V (Culture and Civilization) of SJSU Studies. Enrollment in this course requires concurrent enrollment of completion of 100W, upper division standing, and completion of the CORE GE. Remember, courses that meet Areas R, S, and V of SJSU Studies must be taken from three different departments or distinct academic units.
SJSU Studies Learning Objectives for Area V

Students in this course will address the following learning objectives (LO) through online discussions, lecture material, required readings, and written assignments:

**LO 1**
Students shall be able to compare systematically the ideas, values, images, cultural artifacts, economic structures, technological developments, and/or attitudes of people from more than one culture outside the U.S. (Learning Objective 1 is assessed through the individual research paper assignment).

**LO 2**
Students shall be able to identify the historical context of ideas and cultural traditions outside the U.S. and how they have influenced American culture. (Learning Objective 2 is assessed through various questions on the midterm and final exam).

**LO 3**
Students shall be able to explain how a culture outside the U.S. has changed in response to internal and external pressures. (Learning Objective 3 is assessed through various questions on the midterm and final exam).

**Course assignments:**

The *minimum* writing requirement for all SJSU Studies courses is 3,000 words. Writing will be assessed for correctness, clarity, and conciseness.

**Midterm and final examinations:** These exams will be composed of short- and medium-length essay questions. Questions will be taken from material covered in assigned readings, videotapes, discussions, and information presented in the online seminars. Exam questions will be posted in the class shell as noted below. Student responses will need to be uploaded in the class shell dropbox by 11:55 p.m. on the due date.

**Midterm:** available Nov. 10th at 11:55 p.m.; due Nov. 11th by 11:55 p.m.
**Final:** available Dec. 18th at 11:55 p.m.; due Dec. 19th by 11:55 p.m.

**Term paper:** A hard copy of the term paper will be due by 2:00 p.m. on Dec. 17th in SH 201. **Electronic forms of the paper will not be accepted.** Note that the term paper must also be uploaded to the Term Paper folder in the Dropbox by the due date/time. If you are not able to deliver the term paper to SH 201, you can mail it but it must be received no later that the due date/time. Mail it to:
Toni Campbell  
Department of Child & Adolescent Development  
San José State University  
One Washington Sq.  
San Jose, CA 95112-0075

The term paper is an opportunity for students to conduct focused library and online research in preparation to write on one of the global topics addressed in the course (e.g., child health and mortality, education, child labor, or children and conflict). Students should examine their topics through the use of both the criticism of other scholars (i.e., scholarly journal articles and books) and their own analysis of primary sources (e.g., images, artifacts, and census reports, etc.). Taking just one of the global issues topics, students will systematically compare the practices, ideas, and values of with respect to that topic in three different countries - looking at the challenges those countries face and the progress that they have made in addressing the issue. Student research should include both the criticism of other scholars (i.e., scholarly journal articles and books) and students’ own analysis of primary sources (e.g., images, artifacts, and census reports, etc.).  
The papers should be approximately 10-12 pages in length. The term paper assignment description is posted in the course shell in the Dropbox. Click on either Term Paper Description or Term Paper and open the attachments.

You may upload an optional one-page description of your term paper topic with at least three references to the Term Paper Description dropbox folder anytime before 11:55 p.m. on Nov. 18th. Although eventually you will turn in a hardcopy of your finished term paper, the description assignment is turned in electronically. Turning in the term paper description provides an opportunity for your instructor to give you guidance on your term project before the paper is actually due. Consider handing the description in as early in the course as possible. When the final paper is graded, this assignment is taken into consideration if the paper is on the borderline between grades.  

Seminar Essays: For Seminars 1 and 11 and any six of the other ten seminars, students are required to respond in writing to the assigned essay topic. The essays are opportunities for students personally to reflect on their own concept of childhood and to connect those reflections to course readings, videos, and seminar notes.
Discussions: There are 11 seminar discussion topics. For each of the 11 seminars students are required to participate in a discussion of the assigned topic. Comment on the initial posting under the discussion icon at least once and respond to a classmate's posting at least once for each seminar by the closing date/time of the seminar.

Student responses to the seminar essays and their postings to the discussion topic will be due by 11:55 p.m. on the closing day for the seminar.

Course evaluation:
Course grades are based on a 100-point total:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seminar essays (8)</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussions (11)</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term paper</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>22</td>
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Grades will be assigned as indicated in the table below. Some assignments can receive less than a full point. When calculating the final grade, total points will be rounded up from .5 and down from .4.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93&gt;</td>
<td>90-92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-82</td>
<td>83-86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>&lt;60</td>
<td>F</td>
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</tbody>
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Extra credit: There will be no extra credit offered in this course so it is important to meet deadlines and to do your best throughout the semester.

Late policy/Make-up exam:
Make-up examinations will be given only under truly extraordinary circumstances. Any student too ill to complete an exam or course assignment by its due date/time should provide me with written verification of illness from a health care provider or from the Student Health Center. Discussion participation cannot be made up under any circumstance because of the interactive nature of this particular assignment.

All discussions, papers, and assignments are due on their scheduled due dates/times. Late work will be graded at a penalty. All course work
exception of the final exam) must be completed and turned in by 11:55 p.m. on Dec. 18th to be included as part of the final grade.

**Originality of student work:**
The Department of Child and Adolescent Development takes issues of plagiarism and cheating very seriously. It is department policy that all major papers, exams, and assignments must be submitted to Turnitin.com. When you submit each of your seminar essays, your midterm and final, and your term paper to the course dropbox, your work will automatically be checked for originality by Turnitin.com. Please note that you can submit just one file per assignment...multiple submissions are not allowed. You should read your material carefully before you upload an assignment. If you want to try out the assignment submission process to get a feel for the process, go to the Dropbox folder, **Try out submitting material here**, and submit a file.

On the Student Information page of the SJSU website there is an explanation of the university policy on plagiarism which also discusses students’ rights and responsibilities: -- [http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/integrity.html](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/integrity.html). A very useful site for help in understanding plagiarism is the tutorial offered by the University library -- [http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/tutorial/plagiarism/index.htm](http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/tutorial/plagiarism/index.htm).

**Course Accommodations:**
If you need course accommodations because of a disability, contact me as soon as possible. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities register with Accessible Education Center (AEC) to establish a record of their disability. Students should contact the AEC located in ADM 110 or by phone at 408-924-6000 (voice) or 408-924-5990 (TDD). Access their policies and services at [http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/](http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/)

**Course Schedule:**
**IMPORTANT:** All seminars will be open by 12:00 a.m. on October 3rd, and they will all remain open until 11:55 p.m. on Dec. 24th. To be counted as 'on time' student responses to the written assignments and to all postings to discussions must be submitted by 11:55 p.m. on the due date for the seminar. The term paper assignments and the midterm and final each have specific instructions.

**DUE**  TOPIC, (LEARNING OUTCOME), READINGS, EXAMS, TERM PAPER
10/10  SEMINAR 1: **INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF CHILDHOOD** (LO 1, 2, & 3)


10/17 SEMINAR 2: CONTEMPORARY GLOBAL TOPIC - CHILD HEALTH (LO 2)


10/25 SEMINAR 3: CONTEMPORARY GLOBAL TOPIC - CHILD LABOR (LO 1 & 3)


11/1 SEMINAR 4: CONTEMPORARY GLOBAL TOPIC - CHILDREN AND CONFLICT (LO 1, 2, & 3)


19(3), 263-277.

11/7 SEMINAR 5: CONTEMPORARY GLOBAL TOPIC - EDUCATION (LO 2 & 3)


MIDTERM EXAM

11/11 AVAILABLE NOV. 10th BY 11:55 P.M.
DUE BY NOV. 11th BY 11:55 P.M.

11/14 SEMINAR 6: CHILDHOOD IN ANTIQUITY AND THE MIDDLE AGES (LO 1 & 3)


TERM PAPER DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCES (optional assignment)

DUE NO LATER THAN 11:55 P.M. ON NOV. 18th


12/2 **SEMINAR 8: DEVELOPING A VIEW CHILDHOOD IN EARLY AMERICA (LO 2)**


12/5 **SEMINAR 9: 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURY VIEWS OF CHILDHOOD (LO 1, 2, & 3)**


12/12 **SEMINAR 10: LATER 20TH CENTURY CHILDHOOD (LO 2)**


**TERM PAPER**

12/17 DUE ON DEC. 17th IN SH 201 AND ONLINE BY 2:00 P.M

12/18 **SEMINAR 11: CONTEMPORARY CHILDHOOD & ADOLESCENCE (LO 2)**


**FINAL EXAM**

12/19 AVAILABLE ON DEC. 18th AT 11:55 P.M.
DUE BY DEC. 19th AT 11:55 P.M.