TEMPORARY SYLLABUS: Please note that this syllabus is being posted well before class begins to help you prepare. However, this syllabus is subject to changes. The final syllabus will be posted in the week preceding the official start of class.

Cross-Cultural Childhoods

Summer 2016

Prof. Mariah Schug

Wesleyan University

Dr. Schug’s Contact Info

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Course Themes and Goals

The goal of this course is introduce you to the wide variety of developmental experiences of children around the world and to help you develop a sense of respect for this variation. We will begin by examining different attitudes and practices during prenatal development and continue through early adulthood. A wide range of developmental topics will be considered. The strengths and weaknesses of multiple theoretical approaches to development will be addressed and debated.

Assignments and Grading

Quizzes:

Weekly Response Papers: 100 points (5 papers, 2 pages, 20 points each)

Participation in Live Online Discussions: 50 points

Presentation: 50 points

Final Exam: 100 points (take home – due August 8th at midnight)

Course Organization

Tuesdays at 1:00PM – live weekly lecture and (starting Week 4) presentations

Thursdays at noon – weekly response papers will be due (details below)
Thursdays at 1:00 – live online meeting to discuss week’s readings and (starting Week 4) presentations

August 8th – final exam is due at midnight

Note: Every week you will have extensive reading assignments and will be expected to watch assigned films.

Note: Each of you will be expected to schedule a Skype meeting with me regarding your presentation topic at least one week before your presentation date.

Response Papers

Every week you will be given a prompt to use to write your response paper. The paper is expected to incorporate all of the readings and the movies due that week. It should be no more than two pages in length. Starting in Week 3, you will also be asked to write a one-paragraph response – as part of the response paper – on the student presentations posted that week.

Presentation

You will independently research a topic in cross-cultural childhoods and post your presentation online. Presentations will be 15 minutes in length. Presentations will begin in Week 4. Meet with me via Skype to discuss your presentation at least 10 days before your assigned date. I will put together a presentation schedule in the first few days of class so you have time to prepare. More details on this assignment will be provided at the start of the semester. Students are responsible for the information in each others’ presentations.

Exam

There will be a take-home final exam that is due at midnight on August 8th. The final will consist of three essays and have a total page count of no more than six pages (1.5-2 pages per essay).

Course Texts


Shostak, Marjorie, (1981). *Nisa: The Life and Words of a !Kung Woman*

Many additional reading will be posted online.
Course Schedule

**Week 1 (6/27-7/1) - Topic 1: Theory; Topic 2: Conception, Pregnancy and Birth**


Watch: The movie Babies. This can be streamed on Vimeo or Amazon (for $3.99) or received as a DVD on Netflix. [http://www.focusfeatures.com/babies](http://www.focusfeatures.com/babies)

**Week 2 (7/4-7/8) - Topic 1: Caregivers; Topic 2: Work and School**

LeVine & New: *Child and Sibling Caregiving* (21), *Multiple Caregiving in the Ituri Forest* (8), *Fathers and Infants Among Aka Pygmies* (9), *An Experiment in Infant Care: Children of the Kibbutz* (13), *Children’s Daily Lives among the Yucatec Maya* (23)


Watch: N!ai: The Story of a !Kung Woman. [Note: I’m still working to get access to this video for you. If it is not available, we will watch something else in its place.]

**Week 3 (7/11-7/15) – Topic 1: Attachment; Topic 2: Crying, Weaning and Sleeping**


Shostak: *Earliest Memories* (1)


Watch: Monday’s Girls. [Note: I’m still working to get access to this video for you. If it is not available, we will watch something else in its place. Trailer is here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Iyh4mlRideM]

**Week 4 (7/18- 7/22) – Topic 1: Values; Topic 2: Rites of Passage and Child Abuse**

LeVine & New: The Acquisition of Communicative Style in Japanese (14), Narrating Transgressions in the U.S. and Taiwan (17)


Watch: The Devil’s Playground (Amish rumspringa) [Note: I’m still working to get access to this video for you. If it is not available, we will watch something else in its place.]

**Week 5 (7/25-7/29) – Topic 1: Gender; Topic 2: Sex and Marriage; Topic 3: Course Conclusions**

LeVine & New: Childhood in the Trobiand Islands (3)
Shostak: Discovering Sex (4), Marriage (6)


Watch: National Geographic – Taboo: The Third Sex (Note: You will have to log into YouTube or your Gmail account to access this video on YouTube due to age restrictions.)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0JVFkqb1X3k

Watch Brothers Share One Wife on You Tube:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u7HKmu3eMEk