

Course Number/Name: FCS 3370 Parenting Across Cultures

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Core Course Information

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

[This course considers parenting practices across diverse cultures around the world and within the United States. The course draws on research from several disciplines to inform students' understanding of parenting in diverse cultures. The interdisciplinary approach examines how evolution and geographic, political, religious, cultural, and economic factors influence parenting. This course considers parenting practices across diverse cultures around the world and within the United States. The course draws on research from several disciplines to inform students' understanding of parenting in diverse cultures. The interdisciplinary approach examines how evolution and geographic, political, religious, cultural, and economic characteristics of the country/region/community affect specific childrearing approaches and practices. One goal of the course is to consider how understanding world views and views of the nature of children shape specific parenting practices. The course also addresses whether there are universal patterns of parenting, or near-universal patterns, and examines which practices are indisputably variable.

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Define diverse factors (e.g., economic, religious, evolutionary, cultural) that influence parenting practices around the world
- Understand the extent to which parenting practices are culturally dictated or universal
- Recognize their own cultural rules and worldviews with regard to parenting
- Apply learning about parenting to cultures different than one's own culture
- Develop "Intellectual & Practical" and "Personal & Social Responsibility" skills (see below)

Specific Learning Outcomes & Outcome Assessments for Intellectual and Practical Skills:

1. **Oral Communication** – Students will participate in video discussions and oral presentations. Students will evaluate peers and provide feedback on the content and delivery of oral communication. Students will also receive feedback about their oral communication skills.
2. **Teamwork** – Students will work in groups to research a specific ethnographic group and present information to the class on their parenting practices and the extent to which these are culturally dictated. Students will reflect on their own and their team members' contributions to the team's overall functioning.

Specific Learning Outcomes & Outcome Assessments to Personal & Social Responsibility:

1. **Intercultural Knowledge and Competence** –This course will encourage you to become aware of your own cultural beliefs and biases regarding parenting and encourage you to understand the parenting beliefs and practices of other cultures.

EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS IN COURSE:

Students in this course will participate in online video discussions, written discussions, reflections and quizzes as a way to interact with and engage with the course material. Your grade in this course will be determined by your scores on two exams, and discussions, quizzes, a social media application assignment and a group ethnographic report.

EXAMS/MAJOR ASSIGNMENT PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE:

The current schedule (subject to revision with reasonable notice) for two proctored exams in this class is as follows:

- *Week before fall break – week of Sept. 30th*
- *Final Exam week – Week of Dec. 9th*

Other major assignments include:

Weekly Quiz and/or Discussion

*Ethnographic Presentations (group project) due week of Nov.
25th*

I reserve the right to change these dates as we go through the course with reasonable notice to you; some topics may, for example, take longer than I anticipated. Students will also have reading assignments, video and written discussions and quizzes. You will watch films and interact with your classmates.

REQUIRED/RECOMMENDED COURSE MATERIALS:

There are two books required for the course. Each should be available for less than \$20.

1. DeLoache, J. & Gottlieb, A. (2017). *A World of Babies. Imagined Childcare Guides for Eight Societies*. **2nd edition required**. Cambridge University Press. (please note that the 2nd edition differs a great deal from the first edition; thus, the 2nd edition is required).
2. Small, M. F. (1998). *Our Babies, Ourselves*. New York: Anchor Books.
3. Additional readings, web links, and videos will be posted on Canvas. Refer to weekly “module”