

FCS 3370
PARENTING AND CULTURES - ONLINE COURSE
Spring 2025
3 Credit Hours

Instructor: Kamille Noor Sheikh

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ONLINE Meeting Location: Canvas

Office Hours: By Appointment

Textbook

The following required textbook is required. There is also a copy on reserve at Marriott Library: DeLoache, J. & Gottlieb, A. (2016). *A World of Babies. Imagined Childcare Guides for Eight Societies*. Cambridge University Press. ***There is an option to participate in the Inclusive Access Textbook Program through the University of Utah Bookstore. More details will be shared during the first week of class.***

Other Required Readings

Available through Canvas. You can log on to Canvas through Campus Information Systems (www.cis.utah.edu), under 'Canvas'. See course schedule below for schedule of readings.

Canvas: All class information and materials will be on our Canvas class website. Please check this website frequently. You are responsible for notices, announcements, and information posted on the Canvas class website. This is where you will find pre-recorded lectures, additional required readings, student reflection forms, and other important information. Lecture notes posted there are only designed to be outlines and to help you take detailed notes during pre-recorded lectures.

Course Description: This online 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.

Academic Honesty: It is expected that students adhere to University of Utah policies regarding academic honesty, including but not limited to refraining from cheating, plagiarizing, misrepresenting one's work, and/or inappropriately collaborating. This includes the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools without citation, documentation, or authorization. Students are expected to adhere to the prescribed professional and ethical standards of the profession/discipline for which they are preparing. ***Students using an AI content generator to produce content that is turned in for an assignment or test without being explicitly allowed to do so is academic misconduct.*** Any student who engages in academic dishonesty or who violates the professional and ethical standards for their profession/discipline may be subject to academic sanctions as per the University of Utah's Student Code:

<https://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-410.php>. **Statement from University of Utah, Center for Teaching Excellence**

Late Assignment and Exam Policy

A mandatory 20% deduction will be taken from any late assignment or exam without appropriate documentation.

Course Objectives

1. To understand the evolutionary, economic, geographic, religious, and cultural factors that influence parenting practices around the world.
2. To understand the extent to which parenting practices are culturally dictated or universal.
3. To understand the parenting practices of diverse parents in our own community.

Course Requirements

All assignments must represent the students' own words and work!

1. Readings

A major component of this course will occur outside of class as you do the required readings.

2. Ethnographic Report (30 points of your grade)

Students will select a culture they will research and write a paper, providing background information and detailing parenting practices.

3. Film Presentation Slide Deck (15 points of your grade)

A separate handout will explain the assignment. Each student will be assigned a film or book and then prepare a presentation with a slide deck.

4. Other Assignments - Overall Class Participation, Questionnaires, Pre-Recorded Lectures, Monthly Reflections, Reaction Papers, Quizzes (60 points of your grade)

It is expected that you participate in all class activities, including debates, quizzes, written responses, bimonthly reflections, and online class participation. You will be graded on the quality and quantity of your contributions. Please remember there is no one "right" answer and everyone's ideas are important.

5. Exams (2 total – 40 points each) Two exams covering readings and online lectures. Format will include multiple choice questions and/or true/false questions.**Grading**

Ethnographic Report	30 points
Book/Film Presentation	15 points
Other Assignments	60 points
Exam 1	40 points
Final Exam	40 points

Total Possible Points	185 points

Grading Scale

A = 94% of more of 185 points

A- = 90% - 93% of 185 points

B+ = 88% - 89% of 185 points

B = 83% - 87% of 185 points

B- = 80% - 82% of 185 points

C+ = 78% - 79% of 185 points

C = 73% - 77% of 185 points

C- = 70% - 72% of 185 points

D = 60% - 69% of 185 points

E = < 60

Tentative Course Schedule

Subject to Adjustments and Changes at Instructor's Discretion - Please Check Canvas on a Regular Basis

Week 1 INTRODUCTION TO COURSE - Week of 1/6

Required Readings:

- A World of Babies, Chapters 1 & 2

Week 2 INFLUENCES ON PARENTING & THE AMERICAN & UTAH CONTEXT - Week of 1/13

Required Readings:

- Migrant Today, Parent Tomorrow: A Zero Migration Simulation Article
- Utah Demographics Fact Sheet
- Short Summary of Four Parenting Cultures in America Study (UVA) Article

Assignment(s) DUE - Complete by 1/19:

- Introductory & Parenting Beliefs Questionnaire

Week 3 EVOLUTIONARY INFLUENCES ON PARENTING - Week of 1/20

Required Readings

- Excerpts from Chapters 1 & 2 of Our Babies, Ourselves

Assignment(s) DUE - Complete by 1/26:

- Review options and complete sign-up form for Book/Film Presentation and Ethnographic Report

Week 4 SLEEPING PRACTICES - Week of 1/20

Required Readings:

- McKenna, J. J., & Gettler, L. T. (2016). There is no such thing as infant sleep, there is no such thing as breastfeeding, there is only breastsleeping. *Acta Paediatrica*, 105(1), 17–21.
- (2018) Is Sleeping With Your Baby As Dangerous As Doctors Say? NPR, May.

Week 5 PRENATAL DEVELOPMENT, BIRTH & POSTPARTUM CARE - Week of 1/27

Required Readings:

- A World of Babies, Chapter 6
- “He Wants a Refund Because I’m Breastfeeding My Baby”: A Thematic Analysis of Maternal Stigma for Breastfeeding in Public. *Stigma and Health*.
- (2017) Don't Want To Breastfeed? The Case For Formula Feeding As An Informed Choice, *Forbes*, May.

Assignment(s) DUE - Complete by 2/2

- Reflection Post #1
- Quiz #1

Week 6 INFANCY - Week of 2/3

Required Readings

- A World of Babies, Chapter 9

Assignment(s) DUE - Complete by 6/23:

- Reaction Paper to A World of Babies, Chapters 6 & 9

Week 7 CAREGIVERS - Week of 2/10

Required Readings

- A World of Babies, Chapters 3
- (2024) Estimated Revenue for Child Day Care Services Climbed as Child Care Options Declined in 2021, US Census, January.

Week 8 - Week of 2/17

Time to Work on Book/Film Presentation and Ethnographic Report Paper

Exam #1 Due by 2/21 at 11:59 pm

Weeks 9 and 10 PARENTING IN A MODERN WORLD - Weeks of 2/24 through 3/3

Required Readings:

- YES & NO: Patrikakou, E. N. (2016). Parent involvement, technology, and media: Now what? *The School Community Journal*, 26(2), 9–24.
- Sanders, W., Parent, J., Forehand, R., & Breslend, N. L. (2016). The roles of general and technology-related parenting in managing youth screen time. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 30(5), 641–646.

Assignment(s) DUE:

- Reflection Post #2
- Quiz #2

Week 12 Spring Break - Week of 3/10**Weeks 13 and 14 MULTICULTURAL FAMILIES - Weeks of 3/17 and 3/24**

Required Reading:

- World of Babies, Chapter 7

Assignment(s) DUE

- Book/Film Report
- Reflection Post #3

Weeks 15 and 16 PARENTING AND RELIGION - Weeks of 3/31 and 4/7

Required Reading:

- World of Babies, Chapters 2 and 8
- Quiz #3

Weeks 17 and 18 UNIVERSALS & COURSE SYNTHESIS - Weeks of 4/14 and 4/21

Required Readings:

- Bornstein, M. H. (2012). Cultural approaches to parenting. *Parenting: Science and Practice*, 12, 212-221.

Assignment(s) DUE

- Complete Final Course Reflection Form and Feedback
- Ethnographic Report
- **FINAL EXAM**

NOTE: The syllabus is not a binding, legal contract. It may be modified by the instructor when the student is given reasonable notice of the modification.

The Small Print

Instructor Responsibilities:

1. The instructor will be available for questions through email and office hours by appointment. (The instructor is NOT online on the weekends and holidays). The instructor will respond within 48-72 business hours.
2. The instructor will use a variety of teaching methods, including lecture, discussions, films, debates, etc. in an effort to create a stimulating learning environment and accommodate different learning styles.
3. Provide feedback on assignments in a timely manner.
4. Follow all official University of Utah policies regarding conduct, incompletes, and accommodations. Accommodations will be considered on an individual basis and only with the required documentation. No exceptions will be made to this policy.
5. Treat students equitably and with respect. This includes enforcing responsible behavior on the part of students. For the full list of faculty responsibilities at the University of Utah, see <https://officeforfaculty.utah.edu/faculty-handbook/rights-and-responsibilities-of-faculty/>

Student Responsibilities:

1. Spend 2-3 hours per credit hour in preparing for this class, including completing reading assignments, written assignments, and studying for quizzes and exams.
2. Complete required reading assignments and view films according to the class schedule.
3. Complete written assignments on time.
4. Participate in class activities and discussions.
5. Treat one another, the instructor, campus staff, and the classroom with respect.
6. Seek help from the instructor (and other resources such as the Center for Disability Services or the Writing Center) whenever necessary, and before minor problems become major barriers to learning.
7. Refer to the syllabus and the class webpage for important information pertaining to papers, due dates, and class policies.

For the full list of student rights and responsibilities at the University of Utah, see <https://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php>

Canvas Student Support

<https://digitallearning.utah.edu/support/canvas-help.php>

Email: classhelp@utah.edu

Phone: (801) 581-6112 (M-F 7:30AM – 6:30PM)

ADA Statement: The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Union, 581-5020. CDS will work with you and me to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

Student Code: All students are expected to maintain professional behavior, according to the Student Code. See <http://www.regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.html> for more detail about academic dishonesty, including but not limited to cheating on tests, plagiarism, etc. Students should read the Code carefully and know they are responsible for the content. According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is

the faculty responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behaviors, and I will do so. A faculty member who discovers or receives a complaint of misconduct relating to an academic activity for which the faculty member is responsible shall take action under this code and impose an appropriate sanction for the misconduct.

Offensive Material: Some of the writings, lectures, films, or presentations in this course include material that some students may find offensive. Please review the syllabus carefully to see if this is a class you are committed to taking. If you have a concern, please discuss it with me at your earliest convenience.