

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

Email: [mschug@wesleyan.edu](mailto:mschug@wesleyan.edu) or [mschug@widener.edu](mailto:mschug@widener.edu), Skype name: Mariah Schug

### 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> – 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 8<sup>th</sup>. 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

LeVine, R.A. & New, R.S. (2008). *Anthropology and Child Development: A Cross-Cultural Reader*

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**

Small, M. (1999). Other parents, other ways. In *Our Babies Ourselves: How Biology and Culture Shape the Way We Parent*. Anchor Books: New York, NY.

Shostak: Family Life (2), First Birth (8), Motherhood and Loss (9)

Beckerman, S., Lizarralde, R., Ballew, C., Schroeder, S., Fingelton, C., Garrison, A. & Smith, H. (1998). The Bari Partible Paternity Project, *Current Anthropology*, 39(1), 164- 167.

Sapolsky, R.M. (2004). Dwarfism and the importance of mothers. In *Why zebras don't get ulcers*. Henry Holt and Company: New York, NY.

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>

### **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)

Gielen, U.P. & Chumachenko, O. (2000). All the world's children: The impact of global demographic trends and economic disparities. In *Childhood and Adolescence: Cross-Cultural Perspectives and Applications*. Eds., Gielen, U.P. & Roopnarine, J., Praeger: Westport, CT.

Stack, C.B. (1970). Black urban poor. In *All Our Kin*. Pp. 22-31. Harper & Row: New York. Stack, C.B. (1970). Personal kindreds: All our kin. In *All Our Kin*. Pp. 45-61. Harper & Row: New York.

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**

LeVine & New: Attachment in Anthropological Perspective (12), Infant Care in the Kalahari Desert (7), Swaddling, Cradleboards and the Development of Children (10)

Shostak: Earliest Memories (1)

Valsiner, J. (2005). Pp 178-204. In *Culture and Human Development*. Sage Publications Inc.: London.

Small, M. (1999). *Crybaby*. In *Our Babies Ourselves: How Biology and Culture Shape the Way We Parent*. Anchor Books: New York, NY.

Whiting, J. (1994). Environmental constraints on infant care practices. In *Culture and Human Development: The selected papers of John Whiting*. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge, UK.

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)

Reese, D. (2000). A parenting manual, with words of advice for Puritan mothers. In *A World of Babies: Imagined Childcare Guides for Seven Societies*. Ed. DeLoache, J. & Gottlieb, A., Cambridge University Press: New York, NY.

Whiting, J., Chasdi, E.H., Antonovsky, H.F. & Ayres, B.C. (1994). The learning of values. In *Culture and Human Development: The selected papers of John Whiting*. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge, UK.

Gordon, D. (2005). Female circumcision in Egypt and Sudan: A controversial rite of passage. In *Magic, Witchcraft and Religion: An anthropological study of the supernatural*. Eds., Lehmann, A.C., Myers, J.E., & Moro, P.A., McGraw Hill: Boston, MA.

Herdt, G.H., (1982). Rituals of manhood, *Mankind*, 13(3), 293-297.

Scheper-Hughes, N. (2003). Mother's love: Death without weeping. In *Conflict and Conformity: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*. Pearson Education, Inc.: Boston, MA.

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)

Best, D. (2000). Gender roles in childhood and adolescence. In *Childhood and Adolescence: Cross- Cultural Perspectives and Applications*. Eds., Gielen, U.P. & Roopnarine, J., Praeger: Westport, CT.

Maccoby, E.E. (1988). Gender as a social category. *Developmental Psychology*, 24(6), 755-765. Nanda, S. (1997).

Whiting, J. (1994). Social change in adolescent sexual behavior, mate selection and premarital pregnancy rates in a Kikuyu community. In *Culture and Human Development: The selected papers of John Whiting*. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge, UK.

Yuan, L. & Mitchell, S. (2003). Matrilineal kinship: Walking marriage in China. In *Conflict and Conformity*. Pearson Education, Inc.: Boston, MA.

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>