INTL 433/533 Childhood in International and Cross-cultural Perspective

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MW 10-11:50
300 Villard

Course overview
In this course we will explore the experience of childhood around the world, and examine how this experience is shaped by beliefs about who and what children are as well as by local conditions and contingencies. We will need to weave together three separate strands throughout the quarter - beliefs about children and childhood, actual childhoods as lived experiences in different social settings, and important issues that cut across theoretical models and manifest in every human society.

This course is a seminar and active student participation is expected.

Readings (all required)
DeLoache & Gottlieb A World of Babies
Montgomery Modern Babylon?
Tobin, Yeh, Karasawa Preschool in Three Cultures Revisited
Solomon Far from the Tree

Requirements
Annotated Bibliography of Readings (due in class on day reading is assigned - 18 in all)
Write a summary and a separate response for the reading assignment. There should be a separate summary for each chapter or article, but the response can integrate them. Responses should respond to both the content of the reading, as well as the reading per se.
Each must include at least one question for discussion
Each must also include one quote (with page #) that most struck you, shocked you, informed you or challenged you, along with a statement (~1 paragraph) explaining why you chose that quote.
1-2 pp in length
Grading:
"check plus" exceeds requirement: 4 pts
"check" meets requirement: 3.5 pts
"check minus" does not meet requirement: 2.5 pts

You may skip one, no questions asked
Fieldwork
Visit, observe, analyze and report on a child-related venue where you can observe children and beliefs about children in action. Suggested locations include child care centers, schools, theme parks, toystores, etc. (2-4 pp, due Tuesday March 18 by noon)

Parenting philosophy paper (~2-4 pp, single spaced, due Tuesday March 18 by noon)
This is your chance to reflect on how you were raised at home, at school and in the wider community and to explore your own parenting philosophy and/or your philosophy about the relationship between adults and children in your society.

Graduate students
Each of you will be responsible for an annotated bibliography on a research topic of your choice, and for leading class discussion on one day.

Attendance and in-class reflections
Attendance is mandatory, and 2 pts will be taken off for each missed class. From time to time, there will also be the opportunity for in-class writing assignments, asking you to reflect on a relevant and complex issue. These will not be graded, but 2 pts will be taken off for each one missed.

Grading
Based on a 100-point system as follows:
- Annotated bibliographies 72
- Parenting philosophy 14
- Fieldwork 14

Format for all assignments: Single spaced, with a space between paragraphs. No electronic submissions, please. Assignments are due on time even if you miss class.
Schedule of topics and readings

Week 1
Monday: Overview, introductions, "Right to play"
Wednesday: World of Babies Foreword, Note, Ch. 1 & 2

Week 2
Monday: World of Babies Ch. 3, 4 & 7
Wednesday: World of Babies Ch. 5, 6 & 8

Week 3
Monday: Preschool in Three Cultures Revisited 1.Introduction
Wednesday: Preschool in Three Cultures Revisited 2.China

Week 4
Monday: Preschool in Three Cultures Revisited 3.Japan
Wednesday: Preschool in Three Cultures Revisited 4.United States

Week 5
Monday: Preschool in Three Cultures Revisited 5.Looking Across Time and Cultures
Wednesday: Cultural Survival Quarterly Ennew, Rakesh, text of Convention on Rights of the Child

Week 6
Monday: Cultural Survival Quarterly Reddy, Ledward, Rizzine & Klees
Wednesday: Cultural Survival Quarterly Ledward & Mann, Peters, Boyden, Dale

Week 7
Monday: Modern Babylon? Introduction, 1
Wednesday: Modern Babylon? 2,3

Week 8
Monday: Modern Babylon? 4,5
Wednesday: Modern Babylon? 6,7

Week 9
Monday: Far from the Tree Chapters to be announced
Wednesday: Far from the Tree Chapters to be announced

Week 10
Monday: Far from the Tree Chapters to be announced
Wednesday: Far from the Tree Chapters to be announced

Parenting philosophy and fieldwork writeup due Tuesday March 18 by noon