

BROCK UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF CHILD AND YOUTH STUDIES

**CHYS 3P95 CHILD AND YOUTH THROUGH THE AGES – WINTER 2007**

**Instructor:** Dr. Anthony Volk

**Office and Phone:** AS 432, 688-5550 (ext. 5368)

**Office Hours:** By appointment (please phone or email)

**E-mail:** tvolk@brocku.ca

Lectures: Wednesday 17:00 – 20:00, WH207

**Texts:** Hewlett, B.S., & Lamb, M.E., Eds. (2005). *Hunter-Gatherer Childhoods*. Aldine Transaction: New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Cunningham, H. (2005). *Children and Childhood in Western Society Since 1500* (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.). Pearson: Toronto.

**Course Description:**

This course focuses on understanding children and youth from the very dawn of human history through to modern times. This should span the last five million years or so!

Numerous topics will be covered, including: evolutionary perspectives physical development, mental development, parents, siblings, other family, peers, school, civic duties, civic rights, attitudes towards children, and theories of childhood.

**Course Objectives:**

The goal of the course is to introduce students to the immense topic that is the history of children and youth through the ages. Given the historical, numerical, and theoretical spread of the topic, the course can only serve as a general overview. Nevertheless, at the end of the course, I intend for students to have a firm understanding of general patterns that define childhood and youth through the ages, as well as the differences that occur between different times and places, and possible reasons for why those differences exist.

**Course Evaluation:**

Mid Term Exam1- 20%

Mid Term Exam2- 25%

Final Exam- 30%

Paper -25%

**Exams:**

The exams will cover material from the preceding weeks of the course. Mid Term 1 will cover general theory, as well as non-human, prehistoric, and hunter-gatherer groups. Mid Term 2 will cover the Ancient and Classical civilizations. The Final Exam will cover from the Dark Ages to Modern times and will be scheduled during the December Exam Period. Generally speaking, later exams will not cover the material covered by previous exams. Please note that the exam topics listed here are for general information, and are

not necessarily exhaustive. They may also be changed (slightly). Complete details regarding exam composition will be given in class.

**Missed Exams:**

When possible, missed exams are to be supported by appropriate documentation (e.g., Doctor's note) by the student or the student may receive a grade of ZERO on that exam. Possible circumstances for missing an exam may include religious or cultural reasons or may be due to illness. If at all possible, the instructor should be informed prior to the date of the scheduled exam. If you have any doubt about whether an event, illness, or circumstance qualifies for an exemption or deferral, please contact the instructor ASAP. Missed mid-term exams will have their grades added to later exams (equally). There WILL NOT be make-up exams for the mid-term exams. Make-ups for the final exam will be scheduled as required.

**Paper:**

Students will have to complete a 12-15 page paper on how a particular aspect of childhood or youth has existed (changed or stayed the same) across time from hunter-gatherer groups to modern civilization. A complete list of possible topics will be given in class, but could include such topics as: education, peers, siblings, parents, play, civic roles, civic rights, adolescent rituals, etc. The focus of the paper is to describe the particular topic across human history, and to explain the factors that influence that topic across different historical periods.

The paper should be 12-15 pages, double-spaced, size 12 Times font, including the title page, but not including references. The paper should be in APA format. Marks will be deducted for grammar and format if they are poor enough to hinder comprehension of the paper. Students are expected to make use of resources beyond the class text and lectures.

**The paper is due at the START of the last day of class, April 4, 2007.** Papers handed in after class starts will lose 2 marks out of 25. Papers handed in the next day will lose an extra 3 marks, up to a total of 25 marks. After that day, papers will lose an extra 3 marks. For example, handing in a paper on the 6<sup>th</sup> will result in 2+3+3 marks out of 25 being deducted. Extensions will be granted in only the direst situations. Students will have all semester to work on the paper, so I will not be sympathetic to last-minute requests for extra time caused by busy schedules.

Further details regarding the paper will be discussed in class. I will not be using a computerized plagiarism detection system, but I may visually compare your paper to previous or current papers. For this reason, I will NOT be returning marked papers to students.

**Withdrawing from the Course:**

Please note that March 2, 2007 is the last date for withdrawal without academic penalty and last day to change from credit to audit status for Duration 3 courses. You will be provided with your grades from the first test by February 14, 2007 at the latest.

**Academic Misconduct:**

Because academic integrity is vital to the well-being of the university community, Brock University takes academic misconduct very seriously. Academic misconduct includes plagiarism, which involves presenting the words and ideas of another person as if they were your own, and other forms of cheating, such as using crib notes during a test or fabricating data for a lab assignment. The penalties for academic misconduct can be very severe. A grade of zero may be given for the assignment or even for the course, and a second offense may result in suspension from the University. Students are urged to read the section of the Brock University Undergraduate Calendar that pertains to academic misconduct. Students are also reminded that the Student Development Center (Schmon Tower, Room 400) offers free workshops on writing and study skills and on avoiding plagiarism.

**Grades and Completion of the Course:**

Final grades in the course will be calculated at the end of the semester with the grades being rounded to comply with the 0, 2, 5, 8 marking scheme and any such computations shall be at the discretion of the instructor. **To obtain completed standing in this course, students must complete at least one of the mid-term exams as well as the final exam. If a student is not able to meet these requirements, their standing in the course will be determined by the instructor and the Department of C&YS.**

**WebCT:**

WebCT has been offered as a resource where you can communicate with your classmates and the instructor about course content and any related questions. It will include posting the lecture notes and helpful guides. WebCT is an optional resource, and is not required for successful completion of the course. Please note that while all reasonable efforts will be made, the instructor is not required to accommodate all students with course notes that they deem satisfactory. Course notes are an optional supplement, not a mandatory requirement, of the course.

**Course Outline:****Week 1 – January 10**

Intro to Course; Introduction to Theories; Primate and Prehistoric Children

Read: Chapter 1-4 of HGC

**Week 2 – January 17**

Hunter Gatherer Childhood

Read: Chapter 5-7 of HGC

**Week 3 – January 24**

Hunter Gatherer Childhood

Read: Chapter 13-16 of HGC

**Week 4 – January 31**

**Mid Term 1**

Read: none

**Week 5 – February 7**

Ancient Civilizations (Egypt, Aztec, etc.), Ancient Greece

Read: none

**Week 6 – February 14**

Ancient Greece & Ancient Rome

Read: none

**Spring Break February 21**

**Week 7 – February 28**

Ancient Rome

Read: none

**Week 8 – March 7**

**Mid Term 2**

Read: none

**Week 9 – March 14**

Dark Ages to Medieval Ages

Read: C&C Chapters 1-3

**Week 10 – March 21**

Late Medieval - Renaissance

Read: C&C Chapters 4-5

**Week 11 – March 28**

Renaissance to Modern

Read: Chapter 6-8

**Week 12 – April 4**

Review Class and **Paper Due**

Read: none