

**UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO
COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
OFFICE OF EXTENDED STUDIES**

COURSE SYLLABUS

SOC 326-944: Childhood and Adolescence-3 credits

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The test of the morality of a society is what it does for its children.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

IMPORTANT, PLEASE READ:

- 1. This syllabus is long; print it off as a reference.**
- 2. Read this syllabus carefully and note all due dates, they come quite quickly.**
- 3. Because this course is online, you have to be able to work hard on your own. Do not just complete the readings...study and learn them so you can discuss specific issues, findings, and concepts on the discussion boards.**
- 4. Note that NO extra credit is offered. You must do the course as it is designed.**
- 5. If you do not understand something, ASK!!!**
- 6. There is a prerequisite course to this course—it is SOC-100. You should have competent computer skills and literacy. You must also be familiar with navigating blackboard, if you are not, please seek training or use the free tutorials.**

Everything you need to know to get started in this course is addressed on this syllabus. If you have ANY questions, please feel free to contact me.

COURSE OVERVIEW AND INTRODUCTION:

INSTRUCTOR AND STUDENT INTRODUCTION: You can learn about me, my teaching philosophy and credentials by clicking on the faculty information tab. You will be asked to introduce yourself to the class and upload a picture during the first week of class.

OVERVIEW: Getting started—this is a six week online course that will require you to participate through blackboard each week. This course is divided into six units, one each week. You will be required to participate in several different ways each week by reading required chapters, viewing powerpoint presentations, participating in discussion boards, watching podcasts, visiting various internet websites, completing a writing assignment, and exams. A typical week will include clicking on the assignment tab and completing all of that week's assignments. There will be links from there to various other tasks such as discussion boards, powerpoints, and podcasts. There are also links on the opening page to discussion boards, exam, and course materials.

INTRODUCTION: This course is designed to teach students how to apply sociological theories to contemporary issues related to childhood and adolescence. This will be accomplished through the assigned readings, podcasts, and powerpoints. We will also explore policy and

societal issues related to childhood and adolescence as well as discuss the ways in which societal problems affect children. This will be accomplished through the assigned readings and discussion boards. Exams will be used to measure learning objectives and a research/social policy paper will be required to demonstrate understanding of childhood issues and policies.

NETIQUETTE: It should go without saying that the same standards of behavior that you would follow in “real life” apply in an on-line course. There is no tolerance for unacceptable behavior or cyber bullying. Class netiquette mandates that you do your best to act within the normal expectations of human interaction while interacting with your classmates on-line.

Here are a few tips:

1. Watch how you express your emotions and humor. Due to the lack of vocal and nonverbal clues in online “speech, we often need something extra to read into a message what was intended.
2. Cultural and ability differences impact the online group—keep this in mind.
3. Think before you post—there is a human on the other side.
4. Be ethical, respectful, and courteous.
5. College level communication skills are expected in all communications. Use correct punctuation and spelling.
6. Keep your comments relative to the topic of discussion
7. Validate other’s comments, ideas, and efforts using well thought out messages. Simply replying “yeah”, “way to go” and other similar expressions do not contribute to the learning environment.
8. The use of emoticons are okay ☺.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. The student will understand the sociological theoretical examination and explanation of the contributions of children and adolescence.
2. The student will become acquainted with the historical views of childhood and the societal changes that have affected children and adolescence.
3. The student will learn about children’s peer cultures—their play, conflicts, and differentiation within and between peer cultures.
4. The student will be familiar with the social issues children and adolescence face in U.S. society and other cultures as well.
5. The student will understand the current and needed social policies that affect children and adolescence.

SUMMARY OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Total points possible 430—no extra credit.

1. **Participation:** Weekly discussion boards, viewing powerpoints and podcasts, and visiting various assigned websites—130 points.
2. **Social issue/social policy research paper:** A six page paper that demonstrates your ability to research and synthesize the information garnered, report and critique that information, and offer potential solutions to a childhood or adolescent issue—100 points.
3. **Exams:** exams are over material from the assigned readings, powerpoints, podcasts, and discussion boards—100 points each for a total of 200 points.

WEEKLY LEARNING OBJECTIVES: To meet the learning objectives of the course, each week this course will cover about one chapter of the required reading, view a powerpoint presentation of the material, watch a podcast, visit and peruse a website, and participate in discussion boards about the assigned material for that week. Points are awarded for this participation each week and once a week has ended, participation for that week CANNOT be made up.

MEETING THE LEARNING OBJECTIVES: The following explains how to complete the course requirements thereby meeting the learning objectives.

PARTICIPATION: Online participation in discussion boards is the equivalent of your attendance in a traditional class so it is essential you participate consistently each and every week. Participation points total 130.

1. **How do I participate in discussion boards?** Click on the discussion board icon and enter the discuss board. Post a thread in which you discuss your understanding of the material and any questions you have about the material.
2. **What constitutes full participation so I receive full credit?** (See netiquette standards). The discussion boards are an arena to discuss ideas, offer input on topics, ask questions, and seek clarification. Each chapter will have a question posted on the discussion board. You must both post a thread in which you offer your insight and information on that topic as well as respond to classmate's postings. For full credit you must contribute a minimum of two quality posts on each discussion board. A quality post demonstrates evidence of having read the material and offers substantial contribution to the forum.
3. **How will I be graded?** There is a maximum of 10 points available to earn on each discussion board, including the introduction discussion board the first week of class. You will receive five points for each well thought out thread that you post for a maximum of ten points. You may continue responding to the discussion board but you will only be awarded points for a maximum of two postings and extra postings DO NOT amount to extra credit nor can they make up for a missed week of postings.

SOCIAL ISSUE/SOCIAL POLICY PAPER: Six page, typed, college level quality research paper. Paper is worth 100 points.

1. **What is this assignment?** A research paper is a formal written report that demonstrates your ability to research, synthesize, critique, and report findings on a particular topic, it is an essential component of your college education. What this assignment **IS NOT**, is a regurgitation of information or a collage of data pulled together from various books or internet sources. Think of this as an opportunity to research a topic of interest to you. This research paper should include your own ideas on the topic. It is expected you will work on this paper over the entire course and will be graded accordingly, do not wait until the last minute to complete this assignment.
2. **What are the paper requirements?** You will be responsible to select a topic, some social issues that negatively affects children or adolescence and research it thoroughly. You will turn in a typed, college level quality, six page paper that is a synthesis of your research, a summary of current social policies and or laws that address the issue, and your

ideas for improvement of or additions to social policy or laws. Your ideas must be well thought out and feasible, not just wishful thinking. This paper must contain a bibliography. The bibliography should have a minimum of six sources, **only two of which can be internet websites**. That's right, research using books and academic journals. If an academic journal is available electronically, that does not count then as an internet website. **You must credit all sources where you obtained an idea, fact, or quote**. This is crucial; any paper that does not properly cite the source of the material is subject to receive an "F" for a final grade. Plagiarism is grounds for expulsion from the University. The writing center on campus can help if you need help in writing or citing information. You are required to use the ASA citation format—there is a link to a website that fully explains the ASA format.

- 3. How do I submit this paper?** This paper must be submitted through the "safe assign" icon which is located under that "Writing Assignment" folder found under the "Assignment" icon on blackboard's opening page. **NOTE:** Safe Assign automatically scans your paper for plagiarism and archives a copy of your paper for UNC. You should write your paper in another program, then paste it in the space provided in the assignment icon. **DO NOT SEND THIS PAPER THROUGH EMAIL---THESE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**
- 4. How will I be graded?** Please view the "Rubric for the Research Paper" under course materials. That is what will be used to grade your paper.

EXAMS: Two exams, one approximately midway through the semester and one during finals week. Exams will cover material from every aspect of the course; assigned readings, assigned websites, podcasts, powerpoints, and discussion boards. Exams will be a combination of multiple choice and true/false. Each exam is worth 100 points for a total of 200 points.

- 1. How do I take exams?** Both exams can be found under the Exams icon on blackboard. Each exam will be available from 9:00am until 11:00pm for one day and will have a time limit in which to complete it. It is very important that you complete and submit the exam before the time limit has expired. Points will be deducted if you go past the allowed time. The time limits are posted with the exam. **NOTE:** The exams will be challenging so be sure you know the material well for the exams. **No make-up exams will be allowed, if you miss an exam, you will forfeit the points.**

Exam tips on blackboard:

1. Find a computer with a high speed internet connection. Dial-up and wireless are NOT recommended.
2. Take the practice test I have provided for you on the same computer you intend to take the actual exams on. If you experience any trouble, contact me.
3. Do not open the exam until you are ready to take it. Blackboard will not allow you to exit an exam and re-enter it again later.
4. Once you have started an exam, DO NOT click any of the main menu buttons or the navigation buttons. DO NOT print pages, send email or surf the web while taking a

- test. Doing so may bump you out of the exam, in which case your answers will be lost, and you will not be able to re-enter the exam.
5. Work quickly and efficiently, you may be “timed-out” if you take too long.
 6. Your exam answers are not saved until you click on the “submit” button at the end of the exam. Please do not forget to hit “submit” once you have completed all questions.

ASSESSMENT AND MEASUREMENT: The following information is provided so you will fully understand how you are specifically assessed and measured on the course learning objectives.

PARTICIPATION:

1. How will I be assessed and measured on the learning objectives of participation?

The assessment the participation objective depends on consistent participation in weekly discussion boards. Two postings to each board are required worth five points each for a total of ten points per discussion board. You may participate more but will not be awarded more points. Only quality postings will be awarded points. What constitutes a quality posting is discussed in the “Learning Objectives” section of this syllabus. The discussion boards close weekly and cannot be re-accessed once closed.

SOCIAL ISSUE/SOCIAL POLICY RESEARCH PAPER:

- 1. How will I be assessed and measured on the learning objective of the paper?** There is an assessment rubric under course materials that gives detailed information as to how this paper will be graded.

EXAMS:

- 1. How will I be assessed and measured on the learning objective of the exams?** The objective parts of the exam are scored automatically by blackboard. You will have an immediate score once you have submitted the exam. **A practice exam is provided and you are encouraged to complete it for your benefit in understanding the completion and submission of exams.** Points are not awarded for the practice exam.

GRADING POLICY:

GRADING: 90-100% = A; 80-89% = B; 70-79% = C; 60-69% = D; 59% and lower = F.

1. I do not use the plus/minus grading system.
2. All grades can be checked through the Student Icon tool on blackboard.
3. When checking your grades, you should find a numerical score. If you see a “!” symbol, that means that the assignment or test has not been graded yet. All grades will be posted as soon as possible. If you see a symbol that looks like a blue padlock, this indicates that the assignment or test was not sent, or was sent but never went-through properly. In this case, you need to e-mail or call the instructor, and the instructor will respond with instructions on what needs to be done so that a grade can be given for the exam or assignment.

RESOURCES AND MATERIALS: The following is a list of all required and optional resources and materials. Some resources are available online only.

- 1. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK: Corsaro, William A. 2005. *The Sociology of Childhood*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press.** This is the primary reading for this course and we will cover approximately two chapters per week from this book. We will discuss information from this book on the weekly discussion boards so it is imperative you complete and keep up with the reading. You will need to demonstrate on the discussion boards and the exams that you have read and understood the material. Completing the reading assignments is a significant step in meeting the learning objectives of the course.
- 2. WEBSITES:** There will be websites that you will be required to visit, read, and learn from. Links to these websites will be provided with in that week's assignment. The purpose of these websites is to add to the information provided through statistics, charts, and other useful pieces of data. Visiting these websites will contribute to meeting learning objectives of the course.
- 3. MISCELLANEOUS RESOURCES:** There is a link on the opening page to the library and under the "Course Materials" link, you will find handouts, specific paper instructions, and the paper assessment rubric. Check course materials often as I will add resources that I come across and deem helpful to meeting the learning objectives of this course.

LEARNING ENGAGEMENT: An online course requires that you take advantage of the required activities in a consistent and timely matter as these activities are a substitute for the activities in a traditional classroom setting. The activities in this course are not "busy work" but are intended to facilitate learning of the course objectives.

- 1. LEARNING ACTIVITIES:** In order to facilitate achievement of the stated learning objectives, it is imperative that you complete the required readings, view the powerpoint presentations, and visit the required websites. After completing these activities you should be able to discuss the material you've learned on the discussion boards in a meaningful way. You will also be able to ask questions and read other's student's insights and understanding of the material. Participation in the discussion boards helps meet the goals of achieving the learning objectives as well as fostering instructor-student interaction, content-student interaction, and student-student interaction.
- 2. INSTRUCTOR RESPONSIVENESS AND AVAILABILITY:** It is my intent to be available every weekday throughout the course of this semester. I will be participating on the discussion boards and will be available through email and phone. I will try to respond to emails within the same day. While you are able to participate in the course on weekends, I am generally not available on weekends for course participation or email. I will grade discussion boards weekly, within a couple of days of their closure. The grade for the paper will be posted during finals week. Exams are scored instantly and posted to the gradebook.

3. **STUDENT INTERACTION:** This course is designed for consistent, weekly participation. You cannot wait until the end of the course and complete all the course work. The weekly discussion boards are open from Monday at 9:00am until Sunday at 11:00pm and once closed, cannot be re-accessed. Therefore, if you miss participation in a discussion board, you cannot make up those points. Powerpoints and podcasts remain available as they are a necessary resource in preparing for exams.

COURSE TECHNOLOGY: Blackboard has many features that assist in achieving the learning objectives. You should become familiar with the many tools and media that will be used in this course.

1. **SYLLABUS AND FACULTY INFORMATION:** Obviously the “Syllabus” icon on the opening page allowed you to access this syllabus. Also contained in this link is a “Course Outline at a glance” and the Office of Extended Studies “Student Information Sheet.” (This is only for courses offered through OES). By clicking on the “Faculty Information” you can learn about me, my credentials, and my teaching philosophy.
2. **ASSIGNMENT ICON:** This icon is on the opening page of blackboard and will be where you start each week. Once you’ve clicked on this icon, it will take you to the new learning unit for the week. Click on the new unit and all the information about the week’s requirements and links to all the resources needed will be available. This includes a description of the week’s reading requirements and links to any handouts, websites, powerpoints, and the discussion boards.
3. **COURSE COMMUNICATION:** By clicking on this link you will be able to communicate in a variety of ways with any or all of the users of this course. There are also other useful tools included here.
4. **BEAR MAIL:** Please keep an eye on your “bear mail.” Reminders and changes to the course schedule will be sent to your bear mail.
5. **COURSE TOOLS:** By clicking on course tools you will find a host of items that are helpful and useful for this course such as a calendar to schedule important course dates, a link to your grades and a **user manual for blackboard**.
6. **DISCUSSION BOARDS:** These can be accessed from the opening page of blackboard or from within each week’s assignment. Each week you will enter two new discussion boards by clicking on the title of the discussion board. You will see an icon that says “post a thread.” This allows you to enter your material. Clicking on responses allows you to respond to others who have posted their threads.
7. **WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Each Monday morning a new assignment becomes available for that week and an announcement will summarize the week’s requirements and serve as a reminder to participate in new discussion boards and that new material is available. Please read all weekly announcements as they will contain information about any deviation for the proposed schedule and other important information.

Disability Support Services

Students who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the UNC Disability Support Services at 970-351-2289 as soon as possible to ensure that accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

UNC's Policies

UNC's Policies – UNC's policies and recommendations for academic misconduct will be followed. For additional information, please see the Dean of Student's website, Student Handbook link <http://www.unco.edu/dos/handbook/index.html>

Honor Code

All members of the University of Northern Colorado community are entrusted with the responsibility to uphold and promote five fundamental values: *Honesty, Trust, Respect, Fairness, and Responsibility*. These core elements foster an atmosphere, inside and outside of the classroom, which serves as a foundation and guides the UNC community's academic, professional, and personal growth. Endorsement of these core elements by students, faculty, staff, administration, and trustees strengthens the integrity and value of our academic climate.

Notice

The Office of Extended Studies reserves the right to cancel or reschedule courses based upon enrollment. Enrolled students will be contacted with information of any change.

Student Satisfaction Evaluation

Participants will be asked to evaluate the workshop for instructors' knowledge, interest and enthusiasm as well as providing additional information on classes or topics which you would like to see developed as a future offering from UNC.

Course Withdrawal Information

In accordance with University and Colorado Department of Higher Education policy, if you drop this class after the course starts you will be assessed a drop fee. The drop fee is pro-rated up to the half-way point in the class. You are legally responsible for payment of full tuition once 50% of this course has been concluded. In order to be eligible to receive any refund of tuition, you must contact the Office of Extended Studies (1-800-232-1749) to formally withdraw from your class. Your refund, if applicable, will be based on the date of contact with our office. Withdrawals received via telephone during non-business hours will be processed and dated on the next working day. Failure to notify us will result in UNC tuition being owed even though you do not attend or complete the coursework.

Proposed Course Schedule: tbd