Sociology 448 Lec 202 – Sociology of Children & Adolescents

Spring 2016

Instructor: Megan M. Haak

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Office Hours: By appointment only; evening and weekends

Course Meeting Dates & Times: This course meets entirely online. All course activity is done online; there are no required face-to-face course sessions and no requirements for on-campus activity.

Students will be required to have reliable and consistent access to the internet and the D2L course site to facilitate interactions with content, instructor, and other students.

Course Description:

This course allows us to explore the nature of childhood and adolescents through understanding the development and socialization of children from infancy through adolescence. Through course readings, videos, assignments, and discussions, this course will cover the social agents and social institutions that help form socially constructed meanings of childhood and adolescence. This course incorporates the new Sociology of Childhood perspective, which, rather than presuming children are passive participants in their development, begins with the presumption that children are active participants who shape and are shaped by the social world around them.

Course Objectives:

1. Develop an understanding of the historical relevance of definitions of childhood and adolescence through sociological theories.
2. Become familiar with various research techniques used for the study of children and adolescents and understand the ethical considerations involved with studying minors.
3. Learn and recognize the major sociological and social-psychological perspectives related to childhood and youth development.
4. Identify the major agents of socialization for children including: family, peers, teachers, media, and other social institutions.
5. Acquire an understanding of the larger impact of economic, political and other social forces that influence and affect children and adolescents.
6. Critically discern the bases for major social problems confronting children, adolescents, and the family.
7. Construct an interview guide for a child or adolescent and conduct a face-to-face interview.
8. Critically assess themes from interview transcription to apply a sociological perspective and social psychological factors in the themes of the research study.

Prerequisites:
Jr. Status and another Sociology Course

Specific Course Requirements:
Students must have a basic knowledge of computers, internet, UWM email (office 365) and D2L. Students must have access to Microsoft Word, Adobe Acrobat Reader, and PowerPoint viewer.

Time Expectations:
This class requires you read each article that is posted in D2L, view any video or other footage posted in D2L, and review any lecture PowerPoints. You will also be expected to fully participate in D2L weekly discussion prompts by providing detailed information and reading and responding to other students’ own discussion details.

On average, you will spend approximately nine (9) hours a week of your time in the following fashion:

- At least 3 – 4 hours reading or watching specific materials for each module
- At least 3 hours writing, reading, and posting answers to D2L discussion posts and responding to your classmates’ postings.
Course Content:

- The Meaning of Childhood
- Traditional Theories of Childhood
- New Sociological Perspectives on Childhood
- Methods of Studying Children
- Gender and Sexuality in Children and Adolescents
- Race and Ethnicity in identity development
- Parental influences and Socioeconomic Status in Childhood
- Education and Peer Influences
- Media and Technology in development
- Children today and the future of Children

Course readings, Videos, and Supplementary Materials:

There are no required textbooks for this course. The assigned course readings, videos and web links will be accessible from the UWM learning management system, D2L.

You will be expected to access D2L on a regular basis to obtain the required course readings and digital videos. You may download and print paper-based copies of course readings or you can read them on a computer or tablet.

Assignments, Assessments, Attendance:

- This course is divided into themes based on the course objectives listed above.
- You will be asked to participate in low-stakes discussion sessions in D2L weekly to ensure you have read or viewed the required course materials. The discussions will cover content from articles, instructor lectures, linked websites, and linked videos available in D2L.
- You will be required to participate in small-group discussions online in D2L, which will allow for your development of critical and analytical thoughts based on course learning materials.
- After learning about ethical research with children and youth, you will be asked to complete an interview and present the findings of the interview in a 2 – 5 page essay paper.
Choose from one of the following two choices, either:

- One (1) interview with a child under the age of 12
- One (1) interview with an adolescent between the ages of 12 and 17 years

The interview will consist of topics determined in tandem with your course instructor and should be based on themes of the course learning objectives.

- Any and all assignments or discussions will be due on specific dates/time according to the instructor. **No late assignments/discussions will be accepted without written documentation of extenuating circumstances.**

- If you miss a time period in which a discussion/assignment is used for scoring purposes, there will be no make-up point allocation available. It is imperative that you complete the required discussion/assignment in a timely fashion in order to learn from the content and earn points.

- There is no extra-credit or make-up work available for this course.

**Grading Procedures:**

The grade you earn in this course will be based upon short-essay discussion prompts, an interview-question guide, transcription of the interview, and a final essay write-up of your interview incorporating a sociological perspective and several concepts and theories we learn about during the semester.

You must **work consistently** by reading and course articles, viewing any course videos, and viewing any course online lectures in order to achieve an acceptable grade.
Grading Scale:

Interview Questions and Transcription = 35% of overall grade.
Final Essay of Interview = 25% of overall grade.
Responses to D2L discussion prompts = 40% of overall grade.

Achieved Percentages & Assigned Letter Grades:

- A = 93 – 100
- A- = 90 – 92.9
- B+ = 87 – 89.9
- B = 83 – 86.9
- B- = 80 – 82.9
- C+ = 77 – 79.9
- C = 73 -76.9
- C- = 70 – 72.9
- D+ = 67 – 69.9
- D = 63 – 66.9
- D- = 60 – 62.9
- F = 59.9 or below

Assignments and Projects:

There will be reading assignments and possible web links and video viewing assignments for each weekly module covered based on course themes.

It is imperative that you READ the articles, VIEW any lectures or videos as the materials covered may be referred to in D2L discussions.

Expectations for Behaviors:

You will be expected to help me maintain a collegial and educational atmosphere throughout the semester. This course will cover several topics that may be considered uncomfortable for many people to discuss. However, I will expect you to remain respectful and courteous in your verbal and non-verbal communications with the instructor and with your classmates. We may agree to disagree on any topic, however, we will understand that we are in a learning environment and will allow for differing opinions to be held by other classmates. Refrain from the use of insulting or derogatory communication and try to remain open-minded and positive in the learning environment.
Students are expected to check their email on a regular basis.

Students are expected to regularly access D2L for this course.

Course Expectations for Success:

Students are expected to keep up with assigned course readings, videos and discussions. It is particularly important to keep yourself on task and be cognitively present while responding to discussions or working on assignments scheduled for this class.

Guidelines for Communications:

Email: mhaak@uwm.edu or mhaak@mcw.edu

- Always include a subject line.
- Always include your name and the course name and topic.
- Remember without facial expressions some comments may be taken the wrong way.
- Be careful in wording your emails. Use of emoticons might be helpful in some cases.
- Use standard fonts.
- Do not send large attachments via email, instead use the appropriate Dropbox folder in D2L.

Workload Statement:

For a traditional 3-credit class: This class meets twice weekly for 75 minutes, for a total of 37.5 hours of required lecture time.

You should expect to take at least 60 hours over the course of the semester readings and other required materials and assignments. All told, this class is likely to take 147.5 hours of your time.
Academic Misconduct:  
The following web link gives detailed information regarding academic misconduct at UWM: 
http://uwm.edu/academicaffairs/facultystaff/policies/academic-misconduct/

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:  
In the pursuit of equal access and in compliance with state and federal laws, the University is required to provide accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is expected that a statement be placed on your syllabus informing students to contact you to arrange needed accommodations. Students are to provide a copy of their Verified Individual Services and Accommodations (VISA) to you to indicate the accommodations they may need in your class. If a student requests accommodations, but does not have a VISA, please direct him/her to the Accessibility Resource Center (ARC). Additionally, please provide early information on course reading materials and syllabus information with a schedule of readings, so materials can be converted to alternative formats in a timely manner for students with print impairments. ARC's Post Production Captioning Program will work with you to ensure that media for your course will be captioned for students with a captioning accommodation on their VISA. Please make requests using this online form http://uwm.edu/arc/media-captioning-request-form/. If you are unable to send ARC your recorded lectures or other media, you may use the UW-System approved outside vendors. Please be aware that the department is responsible for the costs associated with use of outside vendors. If you need assistance or have questions, please contact ARC at x5822.

Religious Observances:  
From time to time, students who are observing religious holidays or other days of special religious significance will find it necessary to be absent on a class day. While it is undoubtedly impossible to avoid the scheduling of tests and other major activities without conflicting with some religious observance, Wisconsin law (Chapter 36.43) and UWM Faculty Policy (Document 1918) require that we provide a reasonable accommodation of a student’s sincerely held religious beliefs with regard to all examinations and other academic requirements. Please make every effort to accommodate students who face
conflicts between their academic responsibilities and religious commitments. A copy of the policy is located on the web at https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S1.5.htm. In addition, links to the current religious calendar can be found at http://uwm.edu/academicaffairs/wpcontent/uploads/sites/32/2014/12/calendar.pdf.

Coping with Stress:
To help UWM students manage stress, please see the UWM Mental Health website at www.uwm.edu/mentalhealth. Students can be referred to Norris Health Center’s Counseling and Consultation Services and Norris staff can provide consultation to faculty and staff about individual student issues. Norris’ Office of Health Promotion and Wellness can provide class presentations on stress and coping. Both services can be reached at (414) 229-4716.

UNIVERSITY AND SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT POLICIES

The Secretary of the University maintains a web page that contains university policies that affect the instructor and the students in this course, as well as essential information specific to conduct of the course. The link to that web page is: http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/SyllabusLinks.pdf

Students with Disabilities. Verification of disability, class standards, the policy on the use of alternate material and test accommodations can be found at the following: http://www4.uwm.edu/sac/

Religious Observances. Policies regarding accommodations for absences due to religious observance are found at the following: http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S1.5.htm

Students called to active Military Duty. Accommodations for absences due to call-up of reserves to active military duty are found at the following: http://www4.uwm.edu/current_students/military_call_up.cfm

Incompletes. You may be given an incomplete if you have carried a course successfully until near the end of the semester but, because of illness or other unusual and substantiated cause beyond your control, have been unable to take or complete the final examination or to complete some limited amount of course work. An incomplete is not given unless you prove to the instructor that you were prevented from completing the course for just cause as indicated above. The conditions for awarding an incomplete to graduate and undergraduate students can be found at the following: http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S31.pdf
Discriminatory Conduct (such as sexual harassment). Discriminatory conduct will not be tolerated by the University. It poisons the work and learning environment of the University and threatens the careers, educational experience and well-being of students, faculty and staff. Policies regarding discriminatory conduct can be found at:  http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S47.pdf

Academic Misconduct. Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors. Policies for addressing students cheating on exams or plagiarism can be found at the following: http://www4.uwm.edu/osl/dean/conduct.cfm

Complaint Procedures. Students may direct complaints to the Sociology Department Chair or the Associate Dean for Social Sciences in the College of Letters & Sciences. If the complaint allegedly violates a specific university policy, it may be directed to the Sociology Department Chair, the Associate Dean for Social Sciences in the College of Letters & Sciences, or to the appropriate university office responsible for enforcing the policy. Policies may be found at:  http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S49.7.htm

Grade Appeal Procedures. A student may appeal a grade on the grounds that it is based on a capricious or arbitrary decision of the course instructor. Such an appeal shall follow the established procedures adopted by the department, college, or school in which the course resides or in the case of graduate students, the Graduate School. These procedures are available in writing from the respective department chairperson or the Academic Dean of the College of Letters & Science. Procedures for undergraduate student grade appeal can be found at

http://www4.uwm.edu/letsci/upload/grievance_procedure.pdf

Procedures for graduate student grade appeal can be found at

http://www.graduateschool.uwm.edu/students/policies/

Final Examination Policy. Policies regarding final examinations can be found at the following:  http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S22.htm

Book Royalties. In accord with Department of Sociology policy, the royalties from the sale of faculty-authored books to students in their classes are donated to a UWM Foundation/Sociology Account to support future awards and activities for UWM students in Sociology.