SJSU SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Social Sciences · Sociology & Interdisciplinary Social Sciences

Sociology of Childhood Section 01

SOCI 178

Fall 2023   3 Unit(s)   08/21/2023 to 12/06/2023   Modified 08/19/2023

⬚ Course Description and Requisites

Examination of sociological issues, theories, and research on childhood from infancy to adolescence, including the role of social institutions in shaping the childhood experience and the emergence of peer cultures that change societies.

Prerequisite: SOCI 001.

Letter Graded

✳ Classroom Protocols

Course Policies and Expectations

All of us carry responsibilities in this course. As your instructor, it is my responsibility to be prepared when I teach, to share information with you in a clear manner, to direct you to resources which help you fulfill your tasks, to provide you with opportunities to meet with me, to provide feedback on your work, and to ensure that our course environment is an inclusive space in which each person can learn and share ideas. As the student, it is your responsibility to:

- **Prioritize your well-being.** Your health and well-being, and the health and well-being of your loved ones and communities, are more important to me than what you do in this class. We are living through a series of significant and ongoing global crises, and our daily lives are impacted by this in countless ways. I recognize this, and am willing to work with you so that you can succeed in this class while also taking good care of yourself and those around you as we ride through these crises.
- **Recognize when you are struggling and ask for help.** I want to help you succeed in this class and so it is important that I know if there is anything that is preventing you from doing so as soon as possible. There's no need to share beyond your comfort – it's enough just to let me know what part of the class you're struggling with (e.g.: completing assignments on time, accessing the course materials, your performance on course assignments, etc.) so we can problem solve. However, it is important that you let me know you are having an issue **in a timely manner**. It's much easier to problem solve in week 6 than in week 16!
- **Inform me of any accommodations needed.** It is my goal for this class to be accessible and inclusive of each student. If you are in need of course adaptations and/or accommodations, or if you have issues accessing any of the materials, please let me know as soon as possible.
- **Commit to integrity.** As a student in this course (and at this university) you are expected to maintain high degrees of professionalism and integrity both in and out of the classroom. The University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on course quizzes or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and possible sanctions by the University.
- **Agree not to share course materials.** Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without their approval. You may not publicly share instructor generated material for this course such as course lecture videos, quiz questions, lecture slides, or other module materials without instructor consent.

Policy on Late Work

With a course of this nature, it is important to stay on top of course material as it's easy to fall behind. For this reason, **course modules**

and assignments are due by Wednesday at midnight on the week that they are assigned (this is the recommended due date). However, if you are not able to complete the modules during this time, **you will have an additional week to complete the work without penalty** (this is the final due date). If you anticipate that you will not be able to work by the final due date, please let me know so that we can come up with a plan for you to submit the assignment.

Program Information

Program Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to think sociologically about the relationship between social structure, interaction, identities, and inequalities.
2. Students will be able to identify and explain major sociological theories and apply them to everyday life.
3. Students will be proficient in qualitative and quantitative research design, data collection and data analysis.
4. Students will be proficient in oral and written communication skills appropriate to the discipline.
5. Students will be able to practice sociology as educated and civically engaged persons.

Course Goals

This course will offer you a broad overview of the sociology of childhood and adolescence, including an understanding of the key debates within the field and the predominant theories and topics of interest among childhood scholars. More importantly, it will encourage you to:

- **Develop** your critical thinking skills
- **Evaluate** your own beliefs about children and childhood
- **Examine** how social forces may have shaped the contours of your own life.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- **CLO1:** Demonstrate an understanding of the key concepts and debates within the sociological field of childhood. Students will learn about these in course modules. Proficiency will be assessed in module activities and quizzes.
- **CLO2:** Identify, compare, and apply the sociological theories on childhood and adolescence as discussed in course modules. Proficiency will be assessed in module quizzes and in the course research project.
- **CLO3:** Critically evaluate how social inequalities are woven into and reproduced by cultural and institutional aspects of childhood. Proficiency will be assessed in module activities and in the research project.
- **CLO4:** Analyze one's own childhood and family experiences through the lens of course theories and concepts. Proficiency will be assessed in reflective writing activities and in the research project.

Course Materials

All required readings and materials will be made available in electronic format (.pdf file or weblink) on the course Canvas page under the "files" link. Readings will also be embedded into the course modules. Course readings will consist of academic journal articles, academic book chapters, and news articles.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Your performance in this course will be evaluated based upon the **course module assignments** you complete (80% of the course grade) and a small **course research project** that you will complete in stages (20% of the course grade).

Course Module Assignments (80% of course grade)

There are a variety of activities and assignments that will be embedded into the weekly modules that you will complete for this course. These include:

- **Reflective writing assignments (20% of course grade):** In this course, you will complete a series of short writing assignments designed to help you to reflect on your own understandings of childhood, as well as to reflect on the concepts and ideas presented in the class. These writing assignments will be graded on completeness and on the degree of effort they reflect.
- **Module activities (10% of course grade):** Throughout the course modules, there will be brief activities (e.g.: surveys, interactive activities, etc.) for you to complete. Module activities will be graded based on completeness.
- **Module discussions (20% of course grade):** Some course modules will include online and/or in-person discussions with your peers. Module discussion posts and replies will be graded based on completeness and on the degree of understanding of course materials they reflect.
- **Module quizzes (30% of course grade):** Most modules will end with a Canvas quiz to assess your understanding of the module material. Quizzes will consist of multiple choice, true/false, and matching questions. Module quizzes can be completed any time prior to the quiz due date, but you will need to complete the quiz in one sitting. You will have two attempts for each quiz.

Course Research Project (20% of course grade)

You may choose one of two options for your course project: a **childhood reflection project** or a **toy research project** (detailed descriptions and instructions for both options will be presented in the assignment prompts). The project components, due dates, and grading criteria are the same regardless of which option you choose. Your project will be completed in stages, which benefits you in two different ways: it breaks a large task into smaller, more manageable pieces and it allows you to get valuable feedback along the way that will help you to improve your project report. Each project stage/component will make up a portion of your final grade. Project components include:

- **Project Data (5% of course grade):** For this component, you will collect and summarize the data you will analyze for your project. Instructions specific to each project option will be presented in the assignment prompt.
- **Project Report (15% of course grade):** In either a 6-10 minute video presentation or a 5-7 page paper, you will use course materials and concepts to provide a rich analysis of the data you collected in the data template. Videos and papers will all be evaluated on both content (the ideas and analysis presented in them) and form (the quality of the presentation of these ideas).

✔ Grading Information

Final course grades are based on the weighted percentage of points earned and are assigned as follows:

Criteria

Type	Weight	Topic	Notes
Reflective Writing Assignments	20%		
Module activities	10%		
Module discussions	20%		
Module quizzes	30%		
Research Project - Project Data	5%		
Research Project - Project Report	15%		

Breakdown

Final course grades are based on the weighted percentage of points earned and are assigned as follows:

Grade	Range	Notes
A	93 to 100	
A-	90 to 92	
B+	87 to 89	
B	83 to 86	
B-	80 to 82	
C+	77 to 79	
C	73 to 76	
C-	70 to 72	
D+	67 to 69	
D	63 to 66	
D-	60 to 62	
F	0 to 59	

🏛 University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9 (PDF) (http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on the [Syllabus Information (https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php)](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

📅 Course Schedule

This schedule is subject to change. All schedule changes will be announced on Canvas.

When	Topic	Notes
Course Overview Module Week 1		
Module 1 Week 2	What is childhood?	
Module 2 Week 3	Theories about Childhood	Labor Day - **NO CLASS MEETING**
Module 3 Week 4	Historical Perspectives on Childhood	
Module 4 Week 5	Children and the Changing Family	
Module 5 Week 6	Families and Inequality in Childhood	
Module 6 Week 7	Children, Education, and Inequality	

When	Topic	Notes
Module 7 Week 8	Children and the State	
Module 8 Week 9	Global Childhoods	Project Data Due
Module 9 Week 10	Children's Consumer Culture	
Module 10 Week 11	Children's Toys	
Module 11 Week 12	Children's Clothing	
Module 12 Week 13	Children's Peer Cultures	
Module 13 Week 14	Adolescent Peer Cultures	
Module 14 Week 15	Course wrap-up	
Project Report Due December 14th		