

Department of Anthropology
Course Outline
Fall 2017

Anthropology 3332F-001
Sociocultural Anthropological Perspectives on the Lifecourse

Wed. 10:30AM-12:30PM (SSC-3026), and Thurs. 1:30-2:30PM (SSC-3102)

This course examines how various stages in the human lifecourse are understood and experienced in different sociocultural contexts. Students in this course will undertake cross-cultural considerations of topics including conception, birth, infancy, childhood, adolescence, parenthood, aging, death and the afterlife. We will complement weekly readings and discussions on particular stages of the lifecourse with a term-long focus on aging and the question of what it means to live a “good life” in different socio-cultural contexts. This will be accomplished through discussions of particular sources, and projects in which students will spend time with and interview seniors (either seniors already known to them, or seniors in the community who are willing to volunteer their time through a “Community Engaged Learning” project to be discussed further in class).

Instructor: Andrew Walsh

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TA: Marie-Pier Cantin

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Office Hours: Tuesday, 10-12

Credit Value: 0.5

Prerequisite: *Any Arts and Humanities or Social Science 0.5 or 1.0 Essay course.*

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Policies

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current academic policies regarding **accessibility, plagiarism and scholastic offences, and medical accommodation**. These policies are outlined, with links to the full policies, at:

http://anthropology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/course_information/academic_policies.html

1. Students are responsible for ALL assigned readings unless notified otherwise by the instructor.
2. Attendance is strongly recommended. Students should keep in mind that they may be tested on ALL material that is covered in class (including videos and research presentations). This will generally include a good deal of material that is covered in class but not covered in course readings. If students are unable to attend a class, they are expected to obtain notes from a classmate.

3. You are welcome to use laptop computers in class to take notes, but you may not use electronic devices at the midterm or final exam.
4. Assignments and essays are due on the dates listed in this outline. Any late assignments or essays will be penalized at a rate of 5% / working day late.
5. Students should retain electronic copies of all material handed in.
6. All required papers will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detections software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).
7. All assignments must be submitted prior to the beginning of the exam period.
8. ANY ACTS OF **PLAGIARISM** WILL RESULT IN A GRADE OF 0 ON THE RELEVANT ASSIGNMENT/ESSAY AND AN F IN THE COURSE.
9. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Marking Breakdown

Midterm Test – 20%

Midterm will take place in-class on Wednesday, October 18.

Reading Quizzes – 15%

In the first half of the course, there will be one short reading quiz concerning assigned readings that will be held in class on either Thursday, September 28 (for Group A) or Thursday, October 5 (for Group B). On Wednesday, November 1 there will be a reading quiz on the assigned book *Only Hope*. This quiz will be worth 10% of the final mark.

Final Project/Essay – 30%

The main writing project in the course will have students take inspiration from their encounters with seniors (as part of the CEL component of this course) in order to develop essays that suggest anthropological insights on the experience of aging in London today. More information about this project will be available by week 4 of the course.

Final Exam – 35%

Held during the exam period (December 10-22).

Course Sources

1. Weekly readings accessible through UWO networked computer. See OWL site.
2. *Only Hope: Coming of Age Under China's One-Child Policy*, by Vanessa Fong

Week 1 (Thursday, September 7) – Introduction

	Thursday
	Discussion of course content and of “Community Engaged Learning” component of the course. Featuring Kelly Hollingshead from the CEL office.

Week 2 (September 13,14) – Conception

Required Readings

Martin, Emily

1991 The Egg and the Sperm: How Science Has Constructed a Romance Based on Stereotypical Male-Female Roles. *Signs* 16(3): 485-501.

Morgan, Lynn

1997 Imagining the Unborn in the Ecuadoran Andes. *Feminist Studies*, 23(2):322-350.

Wednesday	Thursday/Meeting re. CEL project
Getting Started: The Facts of Life	Group A -- Aging and ‘the Good Life’: Discussion of “Smile Because it Happened”

Week 3 (September 20, 21) – Birth

Required Readings

Davis-Floyd, Robbie

2001 The technocratic, humanistic, and holistic paradigms of childbirth. *International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics* 75: S5-S23.

Rival, Laura

1998 Androgynous Parents and Guest Children: The Huaorani Couvade. *The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 4(4): 619-42.

Wednesday	Thursday/Meeting re. CEL project
Women, men, and childbirth.	Group B -- Aging and ‘the Good Life’: Discussion of “Smile Because it Happened”

Week 4 (September 27, 28) – Infancy

Required Readings

Conklin, Beth A. and Lynn M. Morgan

1996 Babies, Bodies, and the Production of Personhood in North America and a Native Amazonian Society. *Ethos* 24(4): 657-694.

Gottlieb, Alma

2000 Where Have All the Babies Gone? Toward an Anthropology of Infants (and Their Caretakers). *Anthropological Quarterly* 73(3): 121-132.

Kavedžija, Iza

2015 Frail, Independent, Involved? Care and the Category of the Elderly in Japan. *Anthropology & Aging*, 36 (1):62-81

Lamb, Sarah

2014 Permanent personhood or meaningful decline? Toward a critical anthropology of successful aging. *Journal of Aging Studies* 29: 41–52.

Wednesday	Thursday/Meeting re. CEL project
Bringing up babies.	Group A -- 'Successful' Aging? Discussion of Lamb and Kavedžija articles. READING QUIZ (5%)

Week 5 (October 4, 5) – Childhood

Required Readings

Hart, Jason

2006 Saving Children: What role for Anthropology? *Anthropology Today* 22(1):5-8.

Lancy, D.F.

2012 Why Anthropology of Childhood? A short history of an emerging discipline.

Kavedžija, Iza

2015 Frail, Independent, Involved? Care and the Category of the Elderly in Japan. *Anthropology & Aging*, 36 (1):62-81

Lamb, Sarah

2014 Permanent personhood or meaningful decline? Toward a critical anthropology of successful aging. *Journal of Aging Studies* 29: 41–52.

Wednesday	Thursday/Meeting re. CEL project
The Anthropology of Childhood	Group B -- 'Successful' Aging? Discussion of Lamb and Kavedžija articles. READING QUIZ (5%)

Week 6 (October 18, 19) – Midterm

Wednesday	Thursday/Meeting re. CEL project
Midterm	Group A and B Discussion of “first encounter” projects.

Week 7 (October 25, 26) – Adolescence

Required Readings

Fong, *Only Hope* (Introduction and Chapter 1)

Schlegel, Alice

1995 A Cross-Cultural Approach to Adolescence. *Ethos* 23(1):15-32.

Wednesday	Thursday/Meeting re. CEL project
“Coming of Age”	TBA

Week 8 (November 1, 2) – Coming of Age in China

Required Readings

Fong, *Only Hope* (Remainder of the book)

Wednesday	Thursday/Meeting re. CEL project
READING QUIZ (10%) and class discussion of <i>Only Hope</i> .	TBA.

Week 9 (November 8, 9) – Adulthood/Parenthood

Required Readings

Inhorn, Marcia C.

2004 Middle Eastern Masculinities in the Age of New Reproductive Technologies: Male Infertility and Stigma in Egypt and Lebanon. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 18(2): 162-182.

Zhu, Jianfeng

2010 Mothering Expectant Mothers: Consumption, Production, and Two Motherhoods in Contemporary China.

Wednesday	Thursday/Meeting re. CEL project
Mothers and fathers.	TBA

Week 10 (November 15, 16) – Growing Old

Required Readings

DuBois, Lindsay

2013 Activist Pensioners, a Contradiction in Terms? Argentina's Jubilados. *Anthropology and Aging Quarterly* 34(2): 170-183.

Menon, Usha

2012 Withdrawal or Second Childhood: The Challenge of Old Age in the Temple Town of Bhubaneswar. *Journal of Cross Cultural Gerontology* 27:29-49.

Wednesday	Thursday/Meeting re. CEL project
Different ways of growing old.	TBA

Week 11 (November 22, 23) – Death

Required Readings

Lohmann, Roger

2005 The Afterlife of Asabano Corpses: Relationships with the Deceased in Papua New Guinea. *Ethnology* 44(2):189-206.

Smith, Daniel Jordan

2004 Burials and Belonging in Nigeria: Rural-Urban Relations and Social Inequality in a Contemporary African Ritual. *American Anthropologist* 106(3):569-579.

Wednesday	Thursday/Meeting re. CEL project
Dealing with death.	TBA

Week 12 (November 29, 30) – Completing CEL Projects

Wednesday	Thursday
In lieu of a regular lecture and tutorial meeting, students are expected to devote 3-5 hours to final meetings and discussions with their community partners.	

Week 13 (December 6, 7) – Final Class/Review

Wednesday	Thursday/Meeting re. CEL project
Continuities	Final Review and Discussion

***** Final Exam – During Exam Period – (35%) *****