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 the question of what it means to live a “good life” in different socio-cultural contexts. This will be accomplished through bi-weekly 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 that is currently in development).

**Prerequisite(s):**

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

**Course Instructor**

Andrew Walsh  
Office: SSC-3402  
Office Hours: tbd  
awalsh33@uwo.ca

**Marking Breakdown**

Midterm Test – 20%  
Tutorial Participation – 10%  
Reading Quizzes – 15%  
Final Project/Essay – 25%  
Final Exam – 30%

**Course Policies (please read carefully)**

1. Students are responsible for ALL assigned readings unless notified otherwise by the instructor.
2. Attendance is mandatory. 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 not covered in course readings. If students are unable to attend a class, they are expected to obtain notes from a classmate.
3. 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.

4. Students should retain copies of all material handed in. Please note that the instructor does not accept primary responsibility for assignments or essays submitted outside of class time or office hours. In all cases, copies of material submitted should be retained by the student.

5. All required papers may 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).

6. All term assignments must be submitted prior to the beginning of the exam period. Any work that is outstanding at this point will receive a grade of 0.

7. ANY ACTS OF PLAGIARISM WILL RESULT IN A GRADE OF 0 ON THE RELEVANT ASSIGNMENT/ESSAY AND AN F IN THE COURSE.

8. 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.

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 [MAY CHANGE – CONFIRM WITH INSTRUCTOR BEFORE BUYING]

Week 1 – Introduction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Tutorial</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What the course is about.</td>
<td>ALL must attend. Discussion of tutorial format and expectations.</td>
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</table>

Week 2 – Conception

Required Readings
Delaney, Carol

Martin, Emily

Morgan, Lynn

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Tutorial</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The facts of life.</td>
<td>tba</td>
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</table>
**Week 3 – Birth**

**Required Readings**  
Davis-Floyd, Robbie  
Rival, Laura  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Tutorial</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women, men, and childbirth.</td>
<td>tba</td>
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</table>

**Week 4 – Infancy**

**Required Readings**  
Conklin, Beth A. and Lynn M. Morgan  
Gottlieb, Alma  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Tutorial</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bringing up babies.</td>
<td>tba</td>
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**Week 5 – Childhood**

**Required Readings**  
Hart, Jason  
Hirschfeld, Lawrence  

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Tutorial</th>
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<tr>
<td>Why children?</td>
<td>tba</td>
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**Week 6 – Midterm**

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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
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**Week 7 – Adolescence**

**Required Readings**  
Fong, *Only Hope* (Introduction and Chapter 1)  
Schlegel, Alice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Tutorial</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adolescence.</td>
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**Week 8 – Coming of Age in China**

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

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<thead>
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<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Tutorial</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>TBA</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Week 9 – Adulthood/Parenthood**

**Required Readings**
Ember, Carol R. and Melvin Ember
Inhorn, Marcia C.
Zhu, Jianfeng
2010  Mothering Expectant Mothers: Consumption, Production, and Two Motherhoods in Contemporary China.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Tutorial</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mothers and fathers.</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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**Week 10 – Growing Old**

**Required Readings**
DuBois, Lindsay
Menon, Usha

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Tutorial Groups (SSC3227)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Different ways of growing old.</td>
<td>Meeting with Group B on “adulthood and elderhood”</td>
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</tbody>
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**Week 11 – Death**

**Required Readings**
Lohmann, Roger
Smith, Daniel Jordan

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Tutorial</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dealing with death.</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Week 12 – Afterlife**

**Required Readings**

Gottlieb, Alma
1998 Do Infants Have Religion? The Spiritual Lives of Beng Babies. American Anthropologist 100(1): 122-135. (This is not a typo … I would like you to re-read this article)

Kopytoff, Igor
1971 Ancestors as Elders in Africa. Africa 41(2) : 129-42.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday Lecture</th>
<th>Tutorial</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continuities.</td>
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**Week 13 – Final Class/Review**

*** Final Exam – During Exam Period – (30%) ***