

Anthropology 3332F:
Sociocultural Anthropological Perspectives on the Lifecourse
Tentative Course Outline
Fall 2017-18

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
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Office Hours: tbd
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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

Lecture	Tutorial
What the course is about.	ALL must attend. Discussion of tutorial format and expectations.

Week 2 – Conception

Required Readings

Delaney, Carol

1986 The Meaning of Paternity and the Virgin Birth Debate. *Man* (NS), 21(3):494-513.

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

2006 "Life Begins When They Steal Your Bicycle: Cross-Cultural Practices of Personhood at the Beginnings and Ends of Life. *Journal of Law, Medicine and Ethics*, Spring: 8-15.

Lecture	Tutorial
The facts of life.	tba

Week 3 – 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.

Lecture	Tutorial
Women, men, and childbirth.	tba

Week 4 – 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

1998 Do Infants Have Religion? The Spiritual Lives of Beng Babies. *American Anthropologist* 100(1): 122-135.

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

Lecture	Tutorial
Bringing up babies.	tba

Week 5 – Childhood

Required Readings

Hart, Jason

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

Hirschfeld, Lawrence

2002 Why Don't Anthropologists Like Children? *American Anthropologist* 104(2): 611-627.

Lecture	Tutorial
Why children?	tba

Week 6 – Midterm

Lecture	Tutorial
Midterm	tba.

Week 7– Adolescence

Required Readings

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

Schlegel, Alice

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

Lecture	Tutorial
Adolescence.	

Week 8 – Coming of Age in China

Required Readings

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

Lecture	Tutorial
TBA	TBA

Week 9 – Adulthood/Parenthood

Required Readings

Ember, Carol R. and Melvin Ember

2005 Explaining Corporal Punishment of Children: A Cross-Cultural Study. *American Anthropologist* 107(4): 609-619.

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.

Lecture	Tutorial
Mothers and fathers.	TBA

Week 10 – 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.

Lecture	Tutorial Groups (SSC3227)
Different ways of growing old.	Meeting with Group B on "adulthood and elderhood"

Week 11 – 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.

Lecture	Tutorial
Dealing with death.	TBA

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.

Tuesday Lecture	Tutorial
Continuities.	

Week 13 – Final Class/Review

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