

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department: School of Communications, Arts and Social Sciences

Programme: Psychology

FHEQ Level: 3

Course Title: History of Childhood

Course Code: PSY 3200

Course Leader: Tavis King

Student Engagement Hours: 120

Lectures: 30

Seminar / tutorials: 15

Independent / Guided Learning 75

Semester: Fall

Credits: 12 UK CATS credits

6 ECTS credits

3 US credits

Course Description:

This course investigates the notion of childhood as a historical and social construction. Students will explore how childhood has been portrayed across different societies, at different times, and will also have the opportunity to examine how children are influenced by the cultures in which they live, learn and are cared for. Through the study of historical and social constructions of childhood, students will develop a fuller understanding of how ways of working with children can be shaped by external influences.

Prerequisites:

N/A

Aims and Objectives:

The aim of this module is to explore childhood as a social construction. Relevant issues will be investigated through different theoretical perspectives which have

been used as a framework by researchers in the field. Furthermore, a variety of cultural perspectives will be employed to interrogate the western perspectives on child development.

In addition, some critical analysis of these frameworks will be undertaken, by examining how well these starting points 'panned out', and whether it is possible to integrate insights from these different perspectives. This analysis of cultural and historical perspectives of childhood will enable students to be more aware of issues and expectations linked to offering services to children in an era of globalisation and multiculturalism.

Programme Outcomes:

3A.i, 3B.i, 3C.i, 3D.i

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and found at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Place the history of children and childhood in its social and cultural context
- Explore the role major contextual influences can have on constructing childhood
- Explore the principles underlying a rights approach to childhood, along with policies and provisions relating to the promotion of children and young people's status, health, welfare and learning
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of key theories and concepts that attempt to explain the social construction of childhood
- Demonstrate an understanding of how the work of historians like Philippe Aries influenced interpretations of historical constructions of childhood.

Indicative Content:

- The Historical Construction of Childhood in the West
- Modern Conceptions of Childhood in Different Cultures
- Contextual Influences on Child Development
- Child Labour in a Historical Perspective
- Children's Literature and Childhood

- Sexualisation of Children in a Historical Perspective
- The Role of Health and Education Policies in Shaping the Future of Childhood
- Factors Threatening Childhood in Current Times
- Rescuing Children and Children's Rights
- Play in a Global Context
- Developmental Psychology and the Study of Childhood

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board.

Teaching Methodology:

The course material will be covered in the following ways:

- I. Formal lectures
- II. Discussions of key ideas
- III. Recommended Readings & Websites
- IV. Films

Bibliography:

See syllabus for complete reading list.

IndicativeText(s):

Heywood, C. (2001). *A History of Childhood: Children and Childhood in the West from Medieval to Modern Times*. Cambridge: Polity.

Kehily, M.J. (ed.) (2008). *An Introduction to Childhood Studies* (2nd ed.). Maidenhead: Open University Press/McGraw Hill.

Wells, K. (2015). *Childhood in a Global Perspective* (2nd ed.). Cambridge: Polity.

Journals

British Journal of Educational Studies

Journal of Research in Childhood Education

Journal of the History of Childhood and Youth

Web Sites

<http://www.baspcan.org.uk/>

<http://www.futureofchildren.org/>

<http://www.ecdgroup.com/>

Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus

Change Log for this CSD:

Major or Minor Change?	Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry