

SOCI/ANTH 3045B

Children and Childhood in a Globalized World

Instructor	Zainab Amery
Term	Winter 2025
Course Delivery	In person
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

What does it mean to be a child? Is the term universally understood by those in the West and globally? Are all childhoods of children the same or are they experienced differently? Is the age that childhood begins and ends understood to be the same? How is childhood produced and contested through cultural, social, economic and political systems historically and today? Do we all sentimentalize childhood? This course will address these questions by using historical and ethnographic approaches drawing from a variety of interdisciplinary perspectives to study children and childhood. We will begin by exploring the various definitions of childhood and critically review historical and theoretical evidence concerning the argument that childhood is a socially constructed phenomena as argued by Philippe Aries (1962) to the emergence of “crisis” theories proposed by those such as Neil Postman (1983) who argues that childhood is disappearing. Through readings, lectures, and video presentations, we will consider selected topics impacting children and childhood including historical changes in the sociological and anthropological study of children, particularly the sites of socialization and resistance, the impact of industrialization, globalization and migration, warfare and political violence, the lives of children on the street, and children’s contributions to household economies through child labor, patterns of consumption, and commodification. The course will conclude by understanding children with voices and new forms of political activism and citizenship.

EVALUATION

Assignment	Weight	Due Date and Specifics
Childhood Reflection	10%	Jan 23rd, 2025 Dropbox by 11:59 pm
Proposal and Annotated Bibliography	15%	February 13th, 2025 Dropbox by 11:59 pm
Video Analysis Paper	10%	Pick one of the videos to write your analysis paper on. Due March 13th, 2025, 11:59
Group project	15%	Students will be placed in groups to complete projects based on selected topics. Projects will be posted online Due March 27th, 2025
Participation	10%	Participation will be based on project work in class and discussion
Final Paper	40%	Submitted online by April 4th at 11:59 pm.
Total Grade	100%	

TEXT

All course readings are available in Brightspace through Library Reserves/ ARES. Readings have been selected by the course instructor and compiled using online sources (noted by the hyperlinks), library journal sources (Access online) and PDFs. If the link disappears, please notify me immediately as I maintain copies of all the materials and can make them readily available. Please note that I reserve the right to make changes, should it be necessary, in consultation with the class.