The test of the morality of a society is what it does for its children.
Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Everything you need to know to get started in this course is addressed in this syllabus. If you have ANY questions, please feel free to contact me. You are responsible for the information, dates, and deadlines found in this syllabus.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
After completing course students will be able to:

- Define and apply core sociological concepts to the study of childhood and adolescence.
- Examine, discuss, and critique human behavior and social structure from a sociological perspective, especially as it pertains to childhood and adolescence.
- Apply sociological theoretical perspectives to current social issues, particularly issues related to childhood and adolescence.
- Collect and analyze scholarly literature relevant to current social issues regarding childhood and adolescence.
- Develop effective communication of sociology through both oral and written work.
- Compose a synthesis of research findings on one particular issue pertaining to children and/or adolescents.

REQUIRED TEXT:

COURSE OVERVIEW AND INTRODUCTION:

GETTING STARTED: Please click on the “Start Here” image on the home page of Canvas and review the various course components to learn how this course is organized. You will learn what is expected of you in terms of hours expected to invest in this class, technical skills, etc. You will also learn what to expect from me in terms of interacting with you and how to reach me. Also on the home page you will find this syllabus, a course schedule, due dates at a glance, and a document that will explain my expectations in terms of college-level quality writing.
PURPOSE OF THIS COURSE: This course is designed to teach students how to apply sociological theories to contemporary issues related to childhood and adolescence. This will be accomplished through the assigned readings, PowerPoints, and by visiting various websites. We will also explore policy and societal issues related to childhood and adolescence as well as discuss the ways in which societal problems affect children. This will be accomplished through the assigned readings, assignments, and discussion boards. Exams will be used to measure learning objectives and a social research/social policy paper will be required to demonstrate understanding of childhood issues and policies.

NETIQUETTE: It should go without saying that the same standards of behavior that you would follow in “real life” apply in an on-line course. There is no tolerance for unacceptable behavior or cyber bullying. Class netiquette mandates that you do your best to act within the normal expectations of human interaction while interacting with your classmates on-line. Here are a few tips:
1. Watch how you express your emotions and humor. Due to the lack of vocal and nonverbal clues in online “speech,” we often need something extra to read into a message what was intended.
2. Cultural, gender, age, ethnic, and ability differences impact the online group—keep this in mind.
3. Think before you post—there is a human on the other side.
4. Be ethical, respectful, and courteous.
5. College-level communication skills are expected in all communications. Use correct punctuation and spelling.
6. Keep your comments relative to the topic of discussion
7. Validate other’s comments, ideas, and efforts using well thought out messages. Simply replying “yeah”, “way to go” and other similar expressions do not contribute to the learning environment.
8. The use of emoticons are okay 😊.

INSTRUCTOR AND STUDENT INTRODUCTION: You can learn about my teaching philosophy, my credentials, and me by clicking on my picture on the home page. You will be asked to introduce yourself to the class and upload a picture of yourself on the introduction discussion board during the first week of class.

SUMMARY OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
1. **Participation—Discussion Boards:** You will be required to complete assigned readings, view PowerPoints, view videos, and/or visit assigned websites prior to participating in discussion boards. In each learning unit there will be a course material discussion board. Each discussion board will require that you answer a question and discuss a new topic by posting a new thread and replying to a classmate’s posting. There is also an introduction discussion board in the first unit to participate in. Discussion board participation will be worth 10 points each learning unit—70 points available to earn.
2. **Learning Unit Writing Assignments:** In each learning unit (except the final one) there will be a paper assignment in which you will write a three or more page, college-level quality paper following the specific instructions pertaining to that learning unit. **My expectations for what is meant by “college-level quality writing” can be found on the home page of Canvas.** Each short paper assignment is worth 20 points—100 points available to earn.

3. **Social Issue/Social Policy Research Paper:** A minimum six page paper that demonstrates your ability to research and synthesize the information garnered, report and critique that information, and offer potential solutions to a childhood or adolescent issue—100 points available to earn. Specific instructions will be in the learning unit.

4. **Exams:** Two multiple choice/true-false exams over material from the assigned readings, PowerPoints, video’s, websites and discussion boards—100 points each for a total of 200 points.

**LEARNING UNIT OBJECTIVES:** To meet the learning objectives of the course, each learning unit in this course will typically cover two chapters of the required readings, will require you complete an assignment, participate in a discussion board, and complete a combination of any of the following activities: view a PowerPoint presentation of the material, watch a video, and/or visit and peruse a website. Points are awarded for discussion board participation and assignment completion in each learning unit and once a learning unit has concluded, participation for that unit CANNOT be made up. **Please print out and refer to the course schedule on the home page of Canvas for specific learning objectives for each learning unit and all due dates.**

**MEETING THE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:** The following explains how to complete the course requirements thereby meeting the learning objectives.

**PARTICIPATION:** Reading the assigned material and viewing PowerPoints are important requirements of this course. Also, there will also be occasions where websites must be visited and perused and videos must be watched. Completing the activities is essential to learning and takes the place of the activities in a traditional face to face class. These requirements must be completed at the beginning of each learning unit to facilitate accurate and meaningful online participation in discussion boards. One critical aspect of participation is participating in the discussion boards. Regular and consistent participation in the discussion boards is **crucial to your success in this course.** This is an on-line course, you do not have to attend a class, so your participation with the discussion boards is **equivalent to attendance in class.**

The discussion boards are an arena to discuss ideas, ask questions, and seek clarification, as well as learn about the sociological significance of and issues related to childhood and adolescence. The discussion boards are designed for me to be able to assess how you meet the learning objective of your ability to define, identify, and apply core concepts and also how I get to know you as a person. **NOTE:** in each learning unit the discussion boards have a limited time period; be aware of the posted deadlines. A total of 70 points can be earned in the discussion boards.
WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

Learning Unit Writing Assignments: Each learning unit will require that you complete the assigned activities and demonstrate your understanding of the material by completing a writing assignment. Each learning unit will come with specific instructions for that unit’s writing assignment. A total of 100 points can be earned from the learning unit writing assignments.

The unit writing assignments are designed for me to be able to assess how you meet the learning objective of being able to develop effective communication of sociology, particularly in the area of childhood and adolescence, through written work.

Social Research/Social Policy Paper:

This is a minimum six page, college-level quality research paper. You will select a topic, something that negatively affects children and/or teens, research and present the findings on specifically how it negatively affects children and/or teens. You will also present current social policies or laws that address this issue. Then, you will present a new idea for addressing the negative issue. Detailed instructions for this assignment will be in the learning unit. This paper is worth 100 points.

The Social Research/Social Policy paper is designed for me to be able to assess how you meet the learning objective of collecting and analyzing scholarly literature relevant to current social issues regarding childhood and adolescence and also the objective of composing a synthesis of research findings on one particular issue pertaining to children and/or adolescence.

NOTE: VeriCite automatically scans your papers for plagiarism and archives a copy of your paper for UNC. You will write your assignment in another program and then upload your document into Canvas. Only papers submitted through Canvas will be graded—I do not accept emailed papers.

Exams:

There will be two objective question exams worth 100 points each. These will cover material from reading assignments, PowerPoint presentations, video, websites, and discussion boards. Tests will consist of multiple choice and true/false answer questions. Each exam will be available from the opening of that learning unit until 11:00pm on the closing day of that learning unit. Each exam will have a specific time limit in which to complete it. It is very important that you complete and submit the exam before the time limit has expired. The time limits are posted with each exam. NOTE: The exams will be challenging so be sure you know your material well for the exams. No make-up exams will be given without documentation of a university-accepted reason for missing an exam—200 points available to earn.
GRADING:
Your grade will be based on the following:
15% Discussion Boards: 70 points, 10 points each board (5 possible for new thread, 5 possible for reply).
25% Learning Unit Assignments: 100 points, 20 point each assignment
20% Social Issue/Social Policy Paper: 100 points
40% Exams: 200 points
Total: 470 points

A = 90% or higher
B = 80% - 89%
C = 70% - 79%
D = 60% - 69%
F = 59% or lower
I do not use a plus/minus grading system.

Late work: I do not normally accept late work unless you have a university-approved reason for missing a deadline such as a death in the family, severe illness, etc. However, if I accept your work past the deadline, you will be docked 10% of the total points per day late.

EXPECTED TIME COMMITMENT:
This course is conducted entirely online but is not a self-paced course. There are deadlines and due dates in each learning unit and once discussion boards and assignments are closed, they will not be re-opened. This course proceeds quite quickly and because it is entirely online, you must be able to work hard on your own and be self-disciplined. Do not just complete the readings, study and learn the material so you can discuss specific issues, findings, and concepts on the discussion boards and in the assignments. Remember that in a traditional face-to-face course you attend class three hours per week and an additional six hours per week outside of class for reading and assignments. So, just as in a face-to-face class, schedule your time wisely and schedule time to "attend" this online class and spend the same amount of time as you would in a traditional face-to-face class.

WHAT I EXPECT FROM YOU:
I expect that you will begin each learning unit in a timely manner, read the required materials, visit websites when included, view any PowerPoints, all prior to completing assignments and participating in discussion boards. There are specific instructions for participating in the discussion boards as well as a discussion board grading rubric available on the home page of Canvas.

REQUIRED TECHNICAL SKILLS:
It is expected the student will have an understanding of: navigating within Canvas, opening assignments in Canvas, submitting assignments in Canvas, viewing web links in Canvas, and taking exams in Canvas.
UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO POLICIES

Plagiarism
Plagiarism or any form of cheating will not be tolerated. Please visit this link to understand what consists of plagiarism and UNC’s policy regarding such behavior.
http://www.unco.edu/dos/academicIntegrity/students/definingPlagiarism.html

UNC’s Policies
UNC’s Policies – UNC’s policies and recommendations for academic misconduct will be followed. For additional information, please see the Dean of Student’s website, Student Handbook link http://www.unco.edu/dos/handbook/index.html

Honor Code
All members of the University of Northern Colorado community are entrusted with the responsibility to uphold and promote five fundamental values: Honesty, Trust, Respect, Fairness, and Responsibility. These core elements foster an atmosphere, inside and outside of the classroom, which serves as a foundation and guides the UNC community’s academic, professional, and personal growth. Endorsement of these core elements by students, faculty, staff, administration, and trustees strengthens the integrity and value of our academic climate.

Students with disabilities:
Any student requesting disability accommodation for this class must inform the instructor giving appropriate notice. Students are encouraged to contact Disability Support Services at (970) 351-2289 to certify documentation of disability and to ensure appropriate accommodations are implemented in a timely manner.

Notice
The Office of Extended Studies reserves the right to cancel or reschedule courses based upon enrollment. Enrolled students will be contacted with information of any change.

Library Services for Distance Education and Off-Campus Students: Obtaining Materials from UNC Libraries
Off-campus students residing within 50 miles of the UNC campus are required to come to the library and borrow materials in person. Students residing more than 50 miles from campus may request that materials be delivered to them. All requests must include complete citations. We will supply materials from the UNC Libraries, as well as materials from other libraries obtained via Interlibrary Loan. Articles will be delivered via email. Books will be mailed first class. Delivery time by U.S. postal service is approximately 1 week. It is the responsibility of the student to return books by the date due. UNC does not pay return postage on books. For information on document delivery, call (970) 351-1446.
Requests for materials may be made through the following methods:
Online: http://www.unco.edu/library/forms/distancerequest.htm
By email: library.ocp@unco.edu
By fax: (970) 351-2540
**Student Satisfaction Evaluation**
Participants will be asked to evaluate the workshop for instructors’ knowledge, interest and enthusiasm as well as providing additional information on classes or topics which you would like to see developed as a future offering from UNC.

**Course Withdrawal Information**
In accordance with University and Colorado Department of Higher Education policy, if you drop this class after the course starts you will be assessed a drop fee. The drop fee is pro-rated up to the half-way point in the class. You are legally responsible for payment of full tuition once 50% of this course has been concluded. In order to be eligible to receive any refund of tuition, you must contact the Office of Extended Studies (1-800-232-1749) to formally withdraw from your class. Your refund, if applicable, will be based on the date of contact with our office. Withdrawals received via telephone during non-business hours will be processed and dated on the next working day. Failure to notify us will result in UNC tuition being owed even though you do not attend or complete the coursework.

I realize this is a tremendous amount of information. I am here to answer any question you may have, please do not hesitate to ask. I want you to succeed in this course, and more importantly, I want you to LEARN.

The following is the Course Content and Schedule. A detailed course schedule is available under the button “Course Schedule.”

**COURSE CONTENT AND SCHEDULE:**

**Unit #1: Introduction to Studying Childhood, theories examining childhood—05/13/19—05/19/19:**
- Read Corsaro; Chapters 1 and 2.
- View PowerPoint on traditional theory.
- View PowerPoint on structural perspective.
- Participate in introduction discussion board and course material discussion board #1.
- Complete assignment—1.

**Unit #2: Sociological study of childhood, history of childhood—05/20/19—05/26/19:**
- Read Corsaro; Chapters 3 and 4.
- View PowerPoint on researching children.
- View PowerPoint on historical studies of children.
- Visit “Childstat.gov”—link provided.
- Visit “ICRYNet” website—link provided.
- Participate in course material discussion board #2.
- Complete assignment—2.
Unit #3: Social change—effects on children, children’s peer cultures—05/27/19—06/02/19:

- Read Corsaro; Chapters 5 and 6.
- View PowerPoint on societal changes on children.
- View PowerPoint on children’s peer cultures.
- Participate in course material discussion board #3.
- Complete assignment—3.
- Complete Exam #1.

Unit #4: Children’s play, conflict and differentiation—06/03/19—06/09/19:

- Read Corsaro; Chapters 7 and 8.
- View PowerPoint on sharing and control.
- Participate in course material discussion board #4.
- View video: “Breakfast Club” or another video TBD.
- Complete assignment—4.

Unit #5: Pre-adolescent friendship, changing family structure—06/10/19—06/16/19:

- Read Corsaro; Chapters 9 and 10.
- View PowerPoint on pre-adolescent peer culture.
- Participate in course material discussion board #5.
- Complete assignment—5.

Unit #6: Social Problems children face, the future of childhood—06/17/19—06/23/19:

- Read Corsaro; Chapters 11 and 12.
- View PowerPoint on children, social problems, and society.
- Complete and submit Social Research/Social Policy Paper.
- Participate in course material discussion board #6.
- Complete Exam #2.