

Sociology/Anthropology 3045A: Studies in Children and Childhood
Summer 2011
Final Take-Home Exam

Overview

What? The final exam is a take-home examination of course material (lectures, readings and in-class media) covered beginning on 10 May 2011 up to and including 16 June 2011.

Purpose: The final exam is an opportunity for students to review course themes and issues. It evaluates comprehension of course material (lectures, readings and in-class media), the ability to apply course concepts, as well as critical, sociological engagement with course themes.

Instructions: The final exam will be distributed in class on the last day of class, which is Thursday 16 June 2011. On that day in class, instructions will be provided on the exam and I will answer questions relating to the exam.

Questions about the Exam: You may email me questions relating to the exam. You are encouraged to send me questions as soon as possible after receiving the exam. Questions sent to me close to the deadline may not receive a reply in advance of your deadline; as such, asking questions at the last minute is not in your interest. While I will not repeat lecture material for students who were absent, if you require assistance with material you find challenging, you must schedule an appointment to see me.

Submission: Final exams should be submitted to the drop-box in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at B750 Loeb at any time on 29 June 2011, which is the last day of this term's exam period.

Return: Marked final exams will not be returned. Students may choose to set up an appointment with me to find out their mark on the final exam, in which case comments will be provided orally in person rather than in writing. Marks will *not* be emailed to students under any circumstance.

Missed Exams: There is no make-up for a missed final exam since it is a take-home exam.

Late Policy: The late penalty for mid-term exams is 5% per day, including each weekend day, without appropriate documentation of medical or personal emergency. Any late exams should be submitted to the drop-box in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at B750 Loeb.

Extensions: Deadline extensions are granted only in cases of documented medical or personal emergency. You should notify me as soon as possible when requesting an extension. Do so prior to the deadline whenever possible.

Submission Format: Your final exam must be type-written, double-spaced and in Times New Roman 12 pt. font or a font of equivalent size. All four margins should be a minimum of one inch in width. Any submission that does not conform to this format may be returned to the student to re-format before it will be marked. Students are required to use APA referencing style. (Download the guide listed on page 2 of your syllabus). You must submit your exam in *hardcopy*. Exams will not be accepted via email or in any other electronic format without my

prior permission, which will only be granted in exceptional circumstances. Students must retain a hardcopy of their exams.

Appeals: Students wishing to appeal a grade on the final exam must request a Review of Grade for Final Work through the Registrar's Office. In the event of an appeal, written comments will be provided to accompany the grade.

Basis of Evaluation

Your exams will be evaluated on the following bases:

- The accuracy of your use of course concepts;
- The demonstrated sophistication of your understanding of course concepts;
- The integration of all relevant course materials, which may involve drawing connections across course material (including connections across different course issues or themes);
- The effectiveness and the extent to which you use course material beyond lecture notes, especially course readings (i.e., relying principally or exclusively on lectures without also drawing substantially on course readings will not earn top marks on the final exam);
- The use of productive examples (either your own or those drawn from the course material, including in-class discussions);
- The innovation and originality of thought in your responses;
- The extent to which your responses apply critical and sociological thinking;
- The quality of your writing (to the extent that poor writing conceals or muddies good ideas).

Instructions

This exam is composed of two short essay questions. You must answer both questions. In your responses, you are required to make use of course readings, lecture material and in-class media. You should draw on all relevant course materials to provide a comprehensive response. (If you provide documentation for a medical or personal emergency that explains your absence from class, you may be exempted from the expectation to make use of in-class media in your exam.)

You must provide one bibliography *per* response listing all course readings, lectures and in-class media that you use in your responses. The course readings must be listed in APA format. The lectures should be listed by title. In-class media may be listed by topic as you may not remember the name of each film.

Each short essay should be 6-8 pages long (excluding the bibliography). If you exceed 8 pages on any given answer, I will stop marking at the bottom of the 8th page in fairness to your peers who adhere to the page limit. You should, therefore, aim to be succinct while not sacrificing conceptual depth or detail.

Each question is marked out of 20 points. The final exam is valued at 40% of your final mark.

Essay Question 1:

Explain the quote: “A hungry child knows no politics”. How does the iconography of disaster reinforce the hegemonic social construction of childhood? In what ways does the hegemonic construction of childhood underpin the assumption that children are passive victims of politics rather than active participants in politics? Details the ways in which children in the global South are agents of political change and resilient social actors despite the pathologisation of their experiences. How are these pathologised experiences gendered? Explain the disjuncture between international law relating to children’s rights and how both personal circumstances and larger social structures or forces may lead children to choose childhoods that differ from the hegemonic ideal.

Essay Question 2:

Describe the internationalisation of children’s rights discourse. Explain the debate between “universalism” and “cultural relativism” in relation to the globalisation of children’s rights. Why do critics of universalism claim that the globalisation of children’s rights discourses are “neo-colonial”? How would critics see the contemporary pathologisation of global Southern childhoods as a reflection of the historically parallel discourses of children and the colonised. Explain how neoliberal globalisation produces “pathological” childhoods in the global South. Detail the contradictions between the globalisation of children’s rights discourses and neoliberal globalisation in terms of how they impact global Southern children.