

## **The Anthropology of Childhood**

Sociology and Anthropology 332

Section: E100

Term: 2000 Fall

Instructor: Dr. Noel Dyck

Discussion Topics: Evening, Burnaby Campus

Although children in most societies are commonly said to reside at or near the centre of domestic life, there is enormous variation in the ways in which they are ideologically and practically incorporated into social worlds. This course will focus upon the social, cultural and political construction of "children", "childhood", and "youth" in the contemporary world. We shall trace a range of theoretical, substantive, and methodological concerns that have emerged in the rapidly developing field of the anthropology of childhood.

How can anthropology extend our understanding of relations between children, parents, and adult communities? How can an appreciation of the dynamics of children's lives and the specificities of childhoods in different times and places contribute, in turn, to a broadening of scope and sophistication of anthropology as a social science? These and other questions will be pursued through course readings, seminar discussions, and ethnographic research projects.

Grading: Midterm Examination: 40%

Term Paper: 40%

Seminar Presentations and Participation: 20%

Required Texts: Stephens, Sharon, ed. Children and the Politics of Culture

Princeton University Press, 1995

Thorne, Barrie. Gender Play: Girls and Boys in School

New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers UP (1993)

Recommended Texts:

Materials/Supplies:

Prerequisite/Corequisite: SA 101 and one of SA 201, 263, 286 or 293.

Notes:

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