Course Description

This course is an exploration of the mental life of children. We will make this exploration in two ways. First, we look at the child in terms of the findings and observations that have come to us from modern experimental research. This will provide a picture of the child “from without.” The focus here will be on a few topics that have proven to be of interest: parenting techniques and the relationship between romantic love and our own childhood. We will also look at the child in terms of how he/she uses fairy tales, stories, and other symbolic forms to express and sort out his or her inner life. This will provide a picture of the child “from within.”

Two major themes in this course are parenting and love relationships. We will look at the development of children in the light of these two important domains.

Text

Some of the material we will be using will be available online or on electronic reserve. Some you will need to purchase. The books you will need to purchase are: Keeping the Love You Find by Harville Hendrix and Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone by J.K Rowling. We will use all these books for assignments, so you really will need a copy of them. They are available in the bookstore or for purchase online.

Course Goals

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

a. demonstrate an ability to identify the major emotional and intellectual abilities and characteristics of children of various ages;

b. increase your awareness and knowledge of how your past affects your present;

c. know and know how to apply the major techniques of parenting;

d. apply your knowledge of development to children of various ages;

e. demonstrate an ability to properly participate in a text-focused seminar discussion;

f. demonstrate an enhanced ability to communicate with children through literature.

g. gain confidence and skill in presenting story material to children.

Learning Outcomes

You will:

a. demonstrate in both oral and written work a critical understanding of the major “stages” of development;

b. demonstrate in both oral and written work the nature of symbolic forms of communication and its importance to children of various ages;

c. demonstrate an ability to read symbolic material to children;

d. demonstrate an ability to properly participate in a text-focused seminar discussion;

e. demonstrate the ability to analyze said fairy tale in terms of psychoanalytic, existential, or spiritual/religious categories;

f. apply each of the dominant parenting techniques to common problem scenarios;
g. conduct an Imago assessment on your own childhood and;
h. form an aliveness agenda for your future.

Course Format and Your Role

This course is 100% online. I am here though working with you and available to you. I am not a machine! Please see the Common Language for Course Syllabi for official information, particularly on UWG’s Academic Integrity Policy. Note that I will enforce this policy.

Communication Rules

Network Etiquette - Communication in an online class takes special consideration. Please read the short list of tips below.

- Be sensitive and reflective to what others are saying.
- Don't use all caps. It is the equivalent of screaming.
- Don't flame - These are outbursts of extreme emotion or opinion.
- Think before you hit the post (enter/reply) button. You can't take it back!
- Don't use offensive language.
- Use clear subject lines.
- Don't use abbreviations or acronyms unless the entire class knows them.
- Be forgiving. Anyone can make a mistake.
- Keep the dialog collegial and professional.

Expected Response Times

Students can expect me to be online at least three days per week, primarily during weekdays, but I will check in once during the weekend. Homework assignments will be graded within 5 days of the due date. I will make every attempt to return major assignments within 7-10 days, but the amount of feedback required may extend that time.

Grading and Criteria

The key to success in this class is to do the readings, written work, discussions, and not get behind.

Unless specifically mentioned otherwise, all written work for this class must be typed, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins, and in 12-point font. Written work will be graded according to the following criteria: a) adequacy of understanding of the author’s argument, b) clarity of expression, c) thoughtfulness of response.

If you miss your final exam, and prior arrangements have not been made, you may receive a grade of F on that exam or paper and this may affect your final grade in the class. If you miss your exam due to an emergency, please contact the Psychology office at (678) 839-6510 or go to Melson Room 123 as soon as possible to complete the application: “Missed Final Exam: Verification of Emergency.” This form will need to be approved by the chair for an incomplete grade which may allow you the time to make up your exam or complete your final assignments. This application will require documentation and authorization from you to verify your emergency.
Grading structure and point scale:

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<tr>
<th>Points Range</th>
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<td>90-100 points</td>
<td>90% - 100%</td>
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<td>80 points – 89 points</td>
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<td>70 points – 79 points</td>
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<td>&lt; 60 points</td>
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Here is the breakdown of your grade out of 100 points:

- In Class assignments: 45 points
  - Parenting scenario: 2 points
  - Parenting role play & discussion: 4 points
  - Parenting reflection & discussion: 6 points
  - Early childhood lesson & discussion: 4 points
  - Fairy tale analysis & discussion: 4 points
  - Middle childhood lesson & discussion: 4 points
  - Romance reflection: 15 points
  - Sigel lesson & discussion: 3 points
  - Imago exercise #1: 3 points

- Midterm Exam: 20 points
- Final Exam: 35 points

I will not accept late work. I will make an accommodation only in the case of a documented medical emergency in which you are the person having the emergency.

Plagiarism is when you take personal credit for the words and ideas of others as they are presented in electronic, print, and verbal sources. You must clearly and accurately credit sources you use in written work for all class assignments. If you have been found to plagiarize, you will automatically fail the course and be reported to the administration for disciplinary action.

**Special Needs**

If you have a registered disability that will require accommodation from me, please see me at the beginning of the semester.

**Support for courses**

- **CourseDen D2L Home Page**
- **D2L UWG Online Help** (8 AM – 5 PM)
  Call: 678-839-6248 or 1-855-933-8946 or email: online@westga.edu

- **Student Services**
- **Center for Academic Success**
  678-839-6280
## Class Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>1/5</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/1-2</td>
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