

**Children in Africa**  
*ANG6930/ANT4930*  
Mondays 12:50-3:50 (6-8 Period)  
Turlington Hall 2341

Dr. Alyson Young  
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Office Hours: Weds. 10:45 am-12:30 pm and by appt.  
Course website: <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/>

This course explores the experience of childhood in Africa. It approaches children's experience using a combination of anthropological and lifecourse perspectives, drawing on readings from anthropology, psychology, education, and health sciences, as well as other disciplines.

The goals of the course are to:

- Help students gain a broad overview of the lives of African children including the myriad differences between African childhood and western childhood, and the unique challenges faced by children living in Africa.
- Introduce students to the ethnography of childhood and the various strategies that social scientists and other researchers use to incorporate children's perspectives into their work.

There is no specific text for this course. Readings for the course are compiled from online journals and other scholarly sources.

### **Course Requirements and Grading**

This course is a seminar, so the primary format will be discussion. There are a total of 250 points for the course. Point totals are calculated based on participation in discussion, discussion leadership, and the final research project. At any point, you can calculate your grade in the course by dividing your points received by the total number of points for assignments thus far.

### **Graded Assignments**

*Class Participation* (75 pts.): I expect students to attend each class meeting and to take an active part in class discussions and activities. Active participation includes attendance but also requires that you read all assigned readings and prepare thoughtful questions and critical discussion points in advance of class meetings. I will evaluate your participation based on the *quality* of your contributions and not simply on how often you speak in class. The purpose of evaluating your participation is to encourage you to prepare for class and to promote thoughtful analysis and discussion. In this class, participation is divided into two components:

- 1) Class participation and discussion (50 pts.)
- 2) Leading topic discussion (25 pts.)

*Research Poster* (175 pts):

You will be required to present a research project on a topic of your choice that relates to children in Africa. In lieu of the typical research paper, you will present a poster detailing the results of your research during the last week of classes. Grading rubrics for each part of the poster project will be on E-Learning in the first few weeks of the semester.

Development of the research project will occur throughout the semester:

- 1) **Research topic (25 pts):** You are required to submit a poster proposal outlining the topic of your research project by **Sept. 24**; this brief proposal should describe the topic, including why the topic is important, and should identify some of the key questions or issues your project will explore. You will submit topics online through Sakai.
- 2) **Abstract and annotated bibliography (50 pts):** A 250-300 word proposal abstract (25 pts.) and an annotated bibliography (25 pts.) with at least 10-20 carefully selected references from scholarly literature are due **Oct. 29**.
- 3) **Poster submission (50 pts.):** You must submit your final poster (electronically) by **Nov. 26**.

- 4) **Research forum (50 pts.):** You will present the poster to your peers on **Monday December 3** during regular class time. You will give a brief 15-minute presentation about your research to other students and answer questions.

### **Grades**

Final grades will be based on the following scale: A (94-100), A- (90-93), B+ (87-89), B (84-86), B- (80-83), C+(77-79), C (74-76), C- (70-73), D+(67-69), D (64-66), D-(60-63), E (<59). *I will do my best to return graded assignments to you within a week of their submission.*

### **Policy on Late Assignments**

You are required to complete all assignments by the stated due dates. Late assignments will lose one half-letter grade for each day past the deadline. There are no make-up opportunities for any assignment, as you will have ample time to complete each requirement. I will not assign grades of "incomplete" except in the most unusual, extreme circumstances (i.e. alien abduction). You must provide documentation of such circumstances from an appropriate authority.

### **Academic Honor Code**

I expect students to uphold the Academic Honor Code of the University of Florida. The Academic Honor Code is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility (1) to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the student's own work, (2) to refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the University community, and (3) to foster a high sense of integrity and responsibility on the part of the University community. Please see the following website for a complete explanation of the Academic Honor Code:

[www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html](http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html)).

### **Americans with Disabilities Act**

Students with disabilities, who need reasonable modifications to complete assignments successfully and otherwise satisfy course criteria, are encouraged to meet with the instructor as early in the course as possible to identify and plan specific modifications. Students requesting accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office and then provide documentation to the instructor. For more information about services available to University of Florida students:

*Dean of Students Office Disability Resource Center*

202 Peabody Hall or 0020 Reid Hall

Phone: (352) 392-1261 Phone: (352) 392-8570

### **University of Florida Counseling Services**

Resources are available on-campus for students that feel like they are struggling in their personal or academic life. These resources include:

- University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, personal and career counseling
- Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, personal counseling
- Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, sexual counseling
- Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development assistance and counseling

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
Week 1: Aug 27	Course introduction	Familiarize yourself with syllabus and online resources. Special topic suggestion/dates for leading discussion due in class.
Week 2: Sept 3	No class-Labor Day	
Week 3: Sept 10	What is a child?	
Week 4: Sept 17	What is unique about Africa's children	
Week 5: Sept 24	Overview of child health and demography in Africa	Poster topics due
Week 6: Oct 1	Infant feeding programs	
Week 7: Oct 8	Nutrition & food security	
Week 8: Oct 15	Child health care delivery	
Week 9: Oct 22	Education	
Week 10: Oct 29	Gender and childhood (e.g. Girl children)	Abstract & Annotated Bib due
Week 11: Nov 5	Violence (Child soldiers)	
Week 12: Nov 12	No class-Veterans' Day	
Week 13: Nov 19	HIV, childhood, & adolescents	
Week 14: Nov 26	Ways forwards....	Poster draft due
Week 15: Dec 3	Poster presentations	

\*\*\*Readings for the course will be posted one week in advance on E-Learning and can be access through the UF Library (unless otherwise noted).