

LIT 4930 (9787)
Turlington 2342

Instructor: John Cech (✓)
Mondays 12:50 – 3:50

The Child on Film

The purpose of this course is to explore and, in a sense, to map, depictions of the child as the subject of visual texts. We will begin with early photography, such as the works of Julia Margaret Cameron, Lewis Carroll, Jacques Henri Lartigue, and Lewis Hine. We will screen a number of silent movies in which children play important roles. The course will devote considerable time to the emergence of the child as an important film and photographic archetype during the 1930s -- from the movies of Shirley Temple to the WPA photographs of Dorothea Lange and Helen Levitt, as well as to the contemporary photographs of such artists as Sally Mann, Sheron Rupp, Wendy Ewald, Maggie Taylor, and others.

The second half of the course will consider the portraits of children in the works of filmmakers like Truffaut, Fellini, Spielberg, and Babenco; the documentaries of Apte, Briski, and Burstein; the autobiographical and experimental films of Davies, Madden, and Gondry. Among the questions that we will be asking during the course are why has the child been such an enduring and powerful subject for visual artists, from the first images of children that began to appear among the first images on film, to the mega-star children of the movies today.

Readings and Course Resources

Noel Brown, *The Children's Film: Genre, Nation, and Narrative*.

Recommended

Thomas Aylesworth, *Hollywood Kids*.

Morris Dickstein, *Dancing in the Dark: A Cultural History of the Great Depression*.

Wendy Ewald, *Secret Games*.

Suzanne Flynt, *The Allen Sisters: Pictorial Photographers 1885-1920*.

Russell Freedman, *Kids at Work: Lewis Hine and the Crusade Against Child Labor*.

Anne Higonnet, *Pictures of Innocence*.

Loretta Lux, *Loretta Lux*.

Sally Mann, *Immediate Family*.
Carol Mavor, *Reading Boyishly*.
Douglas Nickel, *Dreaming in Pictures: The Photography of Lewis Carroll*.
Amy Standen, *Maggie Taylor's Landscape of Dreams*.
Edward Steichen and Carl Sandburg, *The Family of Man*.
Susan Sontag, *On Photography*.
Kathleen Thompson and Hillary MacAustin, *Children of the Depression*.
Roman Vishniac, *Children of a Vanished World*.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

- January 10 Introductions. First Glimpses: Photos and silent films. Lartigue's family albums.
- 17 **Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday.**
- 24 Child and Change. The Century of the Child. Read Chapter 1 of *The Children's Film*. Viewings: tba. Project #1.
- 31 The Art of the Child. Viewings: tba. Project #2.
- February 7 "The Kid" and the Gang. Read Chapter 2 of *The Children's Film*.
Viewings: tba. Project #3.
- 14 A Messiah Named Shirley. Viewings: tba. Project #4.
- 21 Oz, Rebels, & Bad Seeds. Viewings: tba. Project #5.
- 28 Spielberg's Empire. Viewings: tba. Project #6.
- March 7 **Spring Break**
- 14 The Eurochild. Read Chapter 3 of *The Children's Film*. Project #7.
Viewings: tba. Project #8.
- 21 Kids of the Global Village. Read Chapter 4 of *The Children's Film*.
Viewings: tba. Project #9.
- 28 American Kids Revisited. Viewings: tba. Project #10
- April 4 DocChild. Viewings: tba.
- 11 Presentations of final projects.
- 18 Final Exam.

For the 9 weeks from January 24 - March 28th you will be asked to do a written, photographic, or film project each week. You will need to do 6 projects of your choice out of the 10 assigned. Most of these weekly projects will have critical and creative

options. There will also be a final, major project for the course (presented in April), and a final exam.

In addition to these written projects, there will be readings and viewings assigned each week. These assignments will be announced in advance in class, with a summary sent to you via the listserv. Most of these viewings will be available on DVD through local libraries and Library West, the English Department media holdings, as well as online through Amazon, Netflix, and other film channels.

Requirements

Active, engaged, enthusiastic, punctual participation in the course. Please note: you will lose points for every unexcused absence after the one “free” absence in the course.

Weekly projects = 60 points.
Final project = 20 points.
Final exam = 20 points.
Total = 100 points.

Grading Policy

All writings are due in class on the due date (see syllabus). You have a 24-hour grace period to turn in these individual assignments if you miss that deadline.

All your work should be typed, unless it is in visual form. You should come prepared to read your weekly writings in the class and to discuss the reading and viewing assignments.

If you do all the assignments, make a good, sincere effort on each of them, actively participate in the class discussions, and are willing to grow creatively through this experience, you should do well in the course.

Grading 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 = 0-59		

UF Grading Policies for Assigning Grade Points

<http://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Final Grade Appeals: If you want to appeal the final grade you receive for this course, you should contact Professor Kenneth Kidd, Associate Chair and Undergraduate Coordinator of the English Department. You will submit your course materials for evaluation by a committee assembled by Professor Kidd. The committee may decide to raise, lower, or leave unchanged your final grade for the course. Its decision is final.

Attendance Policy.

You may miss one weekly meeting, no questions asked. If you miss more than one weekly meeting, you will lose points for each additional, unexcused absence.

Please let me know immediately, via phone or email, if there is an emergency, illness, or other circumstances that are keeping you from being in class so that we can make any necessary adjustments.

In the Classroom.

Classroom discussion should be civil and respectful to everyone and relevant to the day's topic. Some of the issues raised in the class may be controversial and have no easy solutions, and everyone is entitled to their opinion. While you may disagree with each other and (the instructor!), you should express your viewpoint in a polite and constructive manner. But any rude, coarse, or offensive remarks based upon race, gender, ability, or sexual identity, in written assignments or in class discussion will not be tolerated and will result in dismissal from class.

In the interests of protecting the privacy and academic and individual freedoms of everyone in the course, ours will be a cell-phone and computer/pad-free seminar. Please bring pen and paper for your notes. It is important that you are fully present in the class, without the distractions of multi-tasking. We will take regular breaks during our 3-hour seminar so that you will be able to catch up on your text and phone messages.

As you may have heard, there is a new state law concerning recording classes. (See UF's guide to course syllabi, section C.4 at the following link: http://www.syllabus.ufl.edu/media/syllabusufledu/syllabi_policy_8_5_2021.pdf. The wording of this policy seems to apply to lecture courses, since any recording of class discussions would require the permission from other members of the class. These recordings are generally meant for personal use and cannot be "published" online or in other public forums.

If you have a disability that requires that you record the class, you should be in touch with the disabilities office, and they will provide you with a letter for me concerning the individual requirements you may need. Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center at: <https://disability.ufl.edu/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Here is the latest advisory from the UF administration concerning Covid procedures and information:

All people inside of UF facilities are expected to wear masks in community spaces in buildings, including common areas in our office suites, when we are not in our individual offices or workspaces, even if you are vaccinated.

Instructors may ask their students to wear a mask, but they may not require nor ask a student to leave the classroom. Because it is a medical campus, UF Health does require masks while inside any area of its academic health center buildings across its Gainesville, Jacksonville, and Central Florida campuses and in its clinical facilities statewide. Appropriate mask use and voluntary vaccinations have allowed UF Health to create a safe workplace for over 10,000 faculty, staff, and trainees to work and learn in a high-risk COVID environment.

As in previous semesters, instructors may review through their course rosters on Canvas if a student has been withheld from campus by UF Health Screen, Test & Protect due to COVID-19 exposure, symptoms, or a positive test result. If an employee is withheld from campus, his or her supervisor will be notified.

Students who must miss class due to quarantine will be treated as though they are absent from class because of any other illness. The instructor and student should think of it as such and arrange for the student to make up classwork.

As a reminder, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “vaccines in the U.S. UF will continue to promote vaccines and make them easily accessible for all members of the community. If you have not been vaccinated, we urge you to do so as soon as possible. A list of vaccination sites and their schedules is available at <https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/vaccinations/vaccine-availability/>.

COVID-19 testing will also continue to be available, and a list of testing sites and schedules is available at <https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/screen-test-protect-2/how/screen/#locations> and is strongly encouraged for anyone who is experiencing symptoms or is concerned about possible exposure.

Continue to regularly visit coronavirus.UFHealth.org and coronavirus.ufl.edu for up-to-date information about COVID-19 and vaccination.

Honesty and Definition of Plagiarism.

UF students are bound by The University of Florida Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: 'On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.'" The Honor Code (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-studentconduct-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Plagiarism can occur even without any malicious intent to deceive if you fail to understand and employ proper documentation techniques. When in doubt, ask for help!

Other Concerns

Wellness/Counseling: Students who are in distress or who are in need of counseling or urgent help: please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352-392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to you. UF's Counseling and Wellness Center offers additional support: 352-392-1575, or contact them online: <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>

UF's Policy on Sexual Harassment: The University of Florida is committed to providing a safe educational, working, and residential environment that is free from sexual harassment or misconduct directed towards any and all members of the community: <https://titleix.ufl.edu/about/title-ix-rights/>.

Course Evaluations. Toward the end of the semester, you will receive email messages asking you to go online and evaluate this course:
<https://evaluations.ufl.edu/evals/Default.aspx>

Office hours and other contact information

Mondays, 12:00 – 12:50; Wednesdays, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. and by appointment.

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Please feel free to explore the website for our Center for Children's Literature and Culture. You can access the Center online at <https://cclc.english.ufl.edu>