

SOCIOLOGY 445
SOCIOLOGY OF CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENCE
Fall 2009

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Prerequisites: No
General Education: No

Catalog Description

Examines childhood and adolescence in various historical and social contexts. Topics may include gender, race, and class inequalities in childhood; the nature of preadolescence and adolescence as social problems; the changing relationship between childhood and families, schools, and economy; the prolongation of adolescence; and the significance of peer groups.

Additional Notes on the Class

We will engage with important methodological issues in studying children, including recent research strategies which are intended to allow kids to speak for themselves rather than having adults (parents, researchers and others) speak for them. Additional substantive topics covered in this course this semester include children as consumers and workers, sexualities, teen pregnancy and additional topics.

Course Requirements

This class will include both lectures and class discussion, with participation in group and other in-class activities required. There will be a midterm, final, and two-three additional writing assignments.

Required Books

1. Boocock, Sarane Spence and Kimberly Ann Scott. 2005. *Kids in Context: The Sociological Study of Children and Childhoods*. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield.
2. Lareau, Anette. 2003. *Unequal Childhoods: Class, Race, and Family Life*. Berkeley: University of California Press. 2003.
3. Best, Amy. 2000. *Prom Night: Youth, Schools and Popular Culture*. Amy Best. New York: Routledge.