

Parenting Across Cultures  
FCS 3370

**Online**

Dr. Marissa Diener, Associate Professor  
Family & Consumer Studies



**This course meets the International Requirement.**

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

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This course considers parenting practices across diverse cultures around the world and within the United States. The course draws on research from several disciplines to inform students' understanding of parenting in diverse cultures. The interdisciplinary approach examines how evolution and geographic, political, religious, cultural, and economic factors influence parenting. One goal of the course is to consider how understanding world views and views of the nature of children shape specific parenting practices. The course also addresses whether there are universal patterns of parenting, or near-universal patterns, and examines which practices are indisputably variable.

## POSSIBLE COURSE TOPICS

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Topics may include:

- Prenatal practices and childbirth
- Sleeping Practices
- Health and well-being
- Caregivers – Who are they and what is their role?
- Biculturalism/Immigration/Transnational Families
- Parenting & Religion

## TEACHING & LEARNING METHODS

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This course will involve a variety of teaching and learning methods, including pre-recorded lectures, small group video discussions, quizzes, group presentations, and interactive social media. I will encourage students to apply what they learn to their own experiences, to other students' families and experiences, and to families portrayed in books and media. In this course, we will draw from a variety of disciplines, but most heavily from a social science perspective (e.g., psychology, human development, anthropology).

## REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

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(Online access is available for both of these books through Marriott Library catalog – log in with your unid; they are about \$20 used for both):

1. DeLoache, J. & Gottlieb, A. (2017). *A World of Babies. Imagined Childcare Guides for Eight Societies*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition required. Cambridge University Press. **(please note that the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition differs a great deal from the first edition; thus, the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition is required)**.
2. Small, M. F. (1998). *Our Babies, Ourselves*. New York: Anchor Books.
3. Additional readings, web links, and videos will be posted on Canvas. Refer to weekly "module"

## COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

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Students will complete a variety of assignments in this course. They will participate in group discussions, take quizzes, and complete social media discussions. Students will work in small groups to become experts on one specific cultural group in order to share parenting practices of that group with the rest of the class. The class will also include two proctored exams.

I look forward to seeing you in the Fall! If you have questions, please contact Dr. Marissa Diener at 581-8750 or [marissa.diener@fcs.utah.edu](mailto:marissa.diener@fcs.utah.edu)