



credit: Alan Macias

Youth Participation in a Globalizing World

FCS 5962 003

Spring 2007

Dr. Caitlin Cahill

Tuesdays 7:15 PM-10:00 PM

Globalization is characterized by the profound restructuring of societies, human settlements, and the economy. ***But what do these changes mean for young people?***

In this course, students will consider not only the consequences of social, political and economic changes upon children and young people, but also young people's perspectives on their own communities. Students will "travel" to different regions to understand and compare culturally specific understandings of childhood and youth development, to study the different ways globalization takes shapes in local contexts, and to learn about different models of youth participation, civic engagement and activism. In addition, students will have the opportunity to do research with young people in Salt Lake City providing a comparative global/local perspective.

Critical debates on the universalization of childhood, the social construction of children as agents of change, the differences between Minority/Majority World or the North/South divide will be discussed through an examination of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the children's rights movement, the Child Friendly Cities Initiative (UNICEF), and the Growing up in Cities project (UNESCO).

In this interdisciplinary course students will see films, read through case studies of youth directed and initiated projects from different regions of the world, and learn from the first-hand experiences of guest speakers. Course texts will include Louise Chawla's award winning book, *Growing up in an Urbanizing World*, and a special hot off the press journal issue entitled *Pushing the Boundaries: Critical International Perspectives on Child and Youth Participation*.

* Students may opt to take this class for an additional service-learning credit.