

FALL 2005

**Parent-Child Relationships( FCS 3270)**

**Dr. Marissa Diener**

**Learn the Answers to the following questions and more:**

- Will having a child bring me closer to my spouse?
- Where will my infant sleep? In a crib? In my bed?
- Is spanking effective?
- How should you handle temper tantrums?
- What can parents do to help their child adjust to the birth of a sibling?
- What happens when parents treat their children differently?
- How can I help my child get along with other children?
- Should you stay together for the sake of your children?
- Does having a gay parent affect a child's development?
- What factors increase the likelihood of child abuse?
- Will I parent the same way my parents do?

**Course Content:**

The primary goal of this course is to give students an understanding of parent-child interaction across the life span, including the biological, cultural, and interactional characteristics which influence the parent-child relationship. This course will encourage you to critically examine both your personal experiences and the empirical literature on parent-child relationships.

The first half of the course is spent considering parenting at different stages of the lifespan:

- The transition to parenthood
- Parenting an infant
- Parenting a toddler/preschooler
- Parenting during middle-childhood
- Parenting adolescents
- Adult Child/Parent relationships

The second half of the course is spent considering special topics in parenting:

- Gay & Lesbian Parenting
- Single Parenting, Divorce, Stepparenting
- Parenting Children with Special Needs
- Parenting in High-Risk Situations
- Adolescent Parenting
- Adoptive Parenting
- Working Parents & Child Care

**Course Requirements (Subject to Change):**

1. 3 or 4 in-class exams including multiple choice, fill in the blank and short answer and essay
2. participation in class activities – large group and small group and debates
3. 2 thought papers
4. reading outside of class – text and coursepack articles