

Parent-Child Relationships (FCS 3270)

Summer 2005 -- May 16-27
M T W H F -- 8:35 – 12:00 am

Instructor: Dr. Kevin Rathunde

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Course Description

This course will explore important dimensions of parenting across the life span, including historical, cultural and biological factors that influence the evolving relationship between parents and children. We will talk about a great variety of topics. What are the joys and challenges of becoming a parent? How have perceptions of children and parenting changed over time? How can parents stimulate children's interest and motivation to learn? What is more important for positive child outcomes – nature or nurture? How can parents help children adjust to divorce? What is the influence of parental work? How does puberty and cognitive maturation affect parent-adolescent communication? These are a few of the many topics we will explore.

Miscellaneous Info

This is not a "how to" class on parenting, although it should provide useful information for improving the quality of family life. The readings will come from one text available at the bookstore. Grades will be determined by two exams: a) an in-class midterm (end of week 1) and b) an in-class final (end of week 2). The midterm and final will consist of several multiple-choice items. A few short films, small discussion groups, and music will be used to break up the long days.

There is no prerequisite required for this class. If you have any questions, please call or send an email.