

Parenting Across Cultures - FCS 3370
Marissa Diener, Associate Professor
Family & Consumer Studies



This course meets the International Requirement.

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 characteristics of the country/region/community affect specific childrearing approaches and practices. 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. The class will lectures, films, debates and discussions, and perhaps panels of parents from diverse cultures.

We'll consider questions such as:

Who provides caregiving and why?

Where do infants sleep and what are the pros and cons of these sleeping arrangements?

What role does religion play in parents' goals for their children?

What are our own ethnotheories about childrearing and the nature of children? How do these ethnotheories differ from other cultures?

How might our changing demographics change the face of parenting in the state of Utah?

How does immigration affect parenting practices?

Probable Course Requirements:

1. Quizzes/In Class Discussions/Reaction Papers
2. Debates
3. Ethnography
4. Exams

If you have questions, please contact Marissa Diener at 581-8750 or marissa.diener@fcs.utah.edu. I look forward to seeing you.