

English 4040G

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Office hours: Tues, 3:00-4:00, Wed. 2:00-4:00

When UNESCO declared 1979 the International Year of the Child, it brought international visibility to a set of assumptions that the West had held for almost 200 years: that the child, although innocent, is a being full of potential for knowledge, productivity, and the social good, if only his/her needs for food, shelter, love, education, and medical care are adequately met. At the same time, though, the last century and a half has witnessed a flood of narratives that would suggest otherwise: the child is equally capable of familial destruction or global annihilation; the child's innocence is often a screen for sexual knowledge and selfish aggression; the child can exploit a well-meaning adult's desire to protect by turning that adult against his/her

(as per class participation grade):

As this is a senior seminar meeting only once a week, your attendance is mandatory and your participation before and during the seminar is presupposed. You are expected in each class to have read or seen the assigned work beforehand, to contribute to the discussion, and to be able to draw on texts or films to further the conversation. In so participating, you must observe the following protocols of collegiality – that is, “good behavior,” regardless of what you may be feeling:

Full attention to the conversation at hand. Surprising as it may seem (and embarrassing as it is to say), some students in recent years have devoted their class time to Facebook, emailing, games, or things extraneous to the course. I won't have it. Such behavior, if detected, will result in a forfeiting of the participation grade and, if repeated, removal from the course. Technology may of course be used to contribute to the intellectual pursuits of the class (note-taking, on-line research, etc.) but it will not replace it.

Collegial treatment of one's colleagues. This does not mean agreeing with or praising everything someone says, but rather conversing respectfully and generously, even in one's disagreements. I will emphasize throughout the course that we attend to what the literature, theory, and discussions are saying, rather than what they are not; by this I mean I want us to focus on the ways texts



All required papers may be subject to submission for tex