Child and Family Studies (CFS)

Minor in Child and Family Studies

Department of Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences

Director of the minor: Joan F. Kuchner, Department of Psychology

Office: 144 Psychology B
Phone: (631) 632-7695
E-MAIL: Joan.Kuchner@stonybrook.edu
WEB ADDRESS: http://www.psychology.sunysb.edu/cfs

Child and Family Studies (CFS)
The Child and Family Studies minor focuses on children's development and their roles in both the family and in the wider society. It supports the option of preparation for certification as a Child Life specialist. Theoretical and practical issues are explored from an interdisciplinary perspective. Students complement coursework and observations with directed work in the campus child care center and other approved facilities.

Requirements for the Minor

No more than one course may be taken under the Pass/No Credit option.

Completion of the minor requires 24 credits.

A. Required Courses

CFS 210 Introduction to Human Growth and Development in the Family Context (PSY 220 may be substituted)
CFS 322 The Infant and Young Child
*Choose one set of classes from the following:
CFS 381 (Corequisite CFS 283) Seminar in Development and Education of Preschool Children
and
CFS 283 (Corequisite CFS 381) Practicum in Development and Education of Preschool Children
or
CFS 382 (Corequisite CFS 284) Seminar in Infant and Toddler Development
and
CFS 284 (Corequisite CFS 382) Practicum in Infant and Toddler Development
*The seminar not used to fulfill the CFS courses may be used to satisfy one of the CFS electives

B. Four additional courses chosen from the following:

At least three courses must be upper-division, and at least one of these must be a CFS course at the 400 level.

CFS 287 Supervised Research
CFS 308 Violence in the Family
CFS 320 The Special Child
CFS 321 Early Childhood Environments
PSY 327 Human Growth and Development in the Educational Context
CFS 339 Children's Play
CFS 340 Children in Hospitals and Healthcare Settings
CFS 345 Parental Roles in a Pluralistic Society
CFS 344 Development and Aging in Adulthood
SSE 350 Foundations of Education
CFS 405 Seminar in Children, Law, and Social Policy
CFS 417 Senior Seminar
CFS 447 Directed Readings
CFS 487 Independent Project
CFS 488 Internship
CFS 489 Child Life Internship

One of the following courses may be substituted for a CFS or SSE course in requirement B:

AFS 370 African-American Family
ANT 354 Family, Kinship and Marriage
ANT 372 Family, Marriage and Kinship in China
HAN 447 Children with Disabilities
HAN 443 Aging and Disability
LHD 402 Parenting Children in the Next Generation
LIN 330 Language Acquisition
LIN 344 Literacy Development
PSY 325 Children's Cognitive Development  
PSY 326 Children's Social and Emotional Development  
PSY 329 Special Topics in Developmental Psychology  
PSY 334 Autism and Mental Retardation  
PSY 338 Behavior Deviation in Children  
PSY 341 Psychology of Prejudice  
PSY 365 The Psychology of Language  
SOC 304 Sociology of the Family  
SOC/WST 340 Sociology of Human Reproduction  
SOC 384 Sociology of the Life Course  
SOC 387 Sociology of Education  
WST 377/PSY 347 Psychology of Women

Note  
1. No more than six credits of independent work may be used toward fulfillment of the minor requirements.  
2. Students planning to work in the child care center should make arrangements for an interview at the center prior to registering. Proof of having had a recent medical examination must be presented upon reporting to work.

Child and Family Studies Pre-Professional Option

Requirements for eligibility for the Child Life Certification Examination offered through the Child Life Council include:

1. Bachelor's degree
2. Minimum of 10 courses in child life, child development, or child and family studies or closely related courses
3. 480 hours of child life clinical experience: Field-based experience with healthy children prior to the child life internship is recommended.

Students may select courses that will allow them to complete the pre-professional Child Life option within the Child and Family Studies minor.

Recommended Curriculum for the Pre-Professional Child Life Option

Required Courses in Child and Family Studies:

1. CFS 210 Human Development: The Family Context or PSY 220 Developmental Psychology  
2. CFS 283 Practicum in Development and Education of Preschool Children and CFS 381 Seminar in Development and Education of Preschool Children or CFS 284 Practicum in Infant and Toddler Development and CFS 382 Seminar in Infant and Toddler Development  
3. CFS 339 Children's Play  
4. CFS 340 Children in Hospitals and Health Care Settings

Elective Courses in Child and Family Studies:

1. Five additional courses chosen from the following:  
   CFS 308 Violence in the Family  
   CFS 320 The Special Child  
   CFS 321 Early Childhood Environments  
   CFS 322 The Infant and Young Child  
   CFS 345 Parental Roles in a Pluralistic Society  
   CFS 405 Children, Law, and Social Policy  
   SSE 327 Human Growth and Development in the Educational Context  
   PSY 325 Children's Cognitive Development  
   PSY 338 Behavior Deviation in Children  
   PSY 347/WST 377 Psychology of Women  
   SOC 304 Sociology of the Family  
   SOC 348 Sociology of the Life Course

2. CFS 489 Child Life Internship-completion of 12 credits for a total of 480 hours of child life clinical experience. Students are required to complete and pass the Child Life Certification Examination to receive certification.
CFS

Child and Family Studies

CFS 210 - F: Introduction to Human Development: The Family Context
Theories and research pertaining to stages in the life cycle from infancy to old age. Traditional theories of Freud, Erikson, and Piaget as well as contemporary interaction and ecological models are explored. Each stage is considered from the perspective of developmental tasks and its familial and social implications. Ethnicity, social class, and sex roles are examined with special attention to their effects on the family. May not be taken for credit after PSY 220.

3 credits

CFS 283: Practicum in Development and Education of Preschool Children
Students work nine hours a week in a full-day child care center on campus to gain practical experience in teaching, making materials for and observing preschool children. Students maintain daily journals, as well as plan and implement educational activities with the preschool children that provide some of the basis for discussion and evaluation in CFS 381. This course requires students to use the knowledge gained in CFS 381 in a closely supervised situation.

Prerequisite: CFS 210 or CFS 322 or PSY 220
Corequisite: CFS 381
3 credits, S/U grading

CFS 284: Practicum in Infant and Toddler Development
Students work nine hours a week in a full-day child care center on campus to gain practical experience in guiding, teaching, making materials for and observing infants and toddlers. Students maintain daily journals, as well as plan and implement educational activities with the infants and toddlers that provide some of the basis for discussion and evaluation in CFS 382. This course requires students to use the knowledge gained in CFS 382 in a closely supervised situation.

Prerequisite: CFS 210 or CFS 322 or PSY 220
Corequisite: CFS 382
3 credits, S/U grading

CFS 287: Supervised Research in Child and Family Studies
Participation in laboratory and field research in child and family studies under the direct supervision of a faculty member in the Child and Family Studies Program. May be repeated up to a limit of six credits.

CFS 308: Violence in the Family
Theories and research about physical and sexual abuse in the family. Among the topics to be discussed are rape, incest, and spouse abuse. The approach includes sociological, psychological, and feminist perspectives. Solutions involving the medical and legal systems and the establishment of shelters are also explored.

Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisites: Nine credits in the social and behavioral sciences
3 credits

CFS 320 - F: The Special Child
Social, political, philosophical, and educational issues related to the habitation and integration of children. The course focuses on the interaction between children who have developmental, sensory, communication, behavioral, orthopedic, or other health disorders, as well as those who are gifted, and on community response to their exceptional needs.

Prerequisite: CFS 210 (formerly SSI 210) or PSY 220
3 credits

CFS 321 - F: Early Childhood Environments
A study of physical and social environments for young children from birth to eight years old. Public, commercial, and private settings are considered, including homes, hospitals, museums, libraries, and both indoor and outdoor play spaces. Alternative, traditional, and innovative child-care, preschool, and school settings are examined.

Advisory Prerequisite: CFS 210 (formerly SSI 210) or CFS 322 or PSY 220
3 credits

CFS 322 - F: The Infant and Young Child
Growth and development during the earliest stages of life. Socioeconomic class, ethnicity, and individual differences of infants and young children are explored. Topics include cognitive, socioemotional, and language development; the at-risk infant; and caregivers' role in health care, safety, and nutrition. Students conduct periodic systematic observations of infants and young children in a variety of settings.

Prerequisite: U3 standing; CFS 210 or PSY 220
3 credits
CHILD AND FAMILY STUDIES (CFS) - COURSES

Spring 2010

America’s pluralistic society. Specific issues such as ethnic socialization by parents and multiculturalism in child care and school settings are analyzed.

Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisite: CFS 210 (formerly SSI 210) or PSY 220 or SOC 304
3 credits

CFS 381: Seminar in Development and Education of Preschool Children
Seminar in early childhood development and education focusing on emergent literacy, science and math discovery, multi-sensory experiences to enhance motor development and the exploration of the arts. Students analyze strategies for problem solving and for creating environments that foster positive social interactions. Active listening, limit setting, conflict negotiations, and inquiry approaches to learning are explored from a multicultural perspective. Students develop learning experiences for the preschool age children that they are working with in the co-requisite practicum, CFS 283.

Prerequisite: CFS 210 or CFS 322 or PSY 220
Corequisite: CFS 283
3 credits

CFS 382: Seminar in Infant and Toddler Development
Seminar in infant and toddler development, care, and education guides students in creating and maintaining age appropriate safe and healthy learning and living environments for infants and toddlers that focus on emergent communication and language skills while fostering positive social and emotional development. Students design multi-sensory curriculum for the infants and toddlers that they are working within the co-requisite practicum, CFS 284. These teacher guided activities encourage cooperation, motor development and discovery learning. Anti-bias problem solving strategies are introduced and practiced including active listening, limit setting, conflict negotiations, and child initiated inquiry approaches to learning.

Prerequisite: CFS 210 or CFS 322 or PSY 220
Corequisite: CFS 284
3 credits

CFS 405: Seminar in Children, Law, and Social Policy
A seminar that examines the social and political factors that determine the legislation affecting children and the evaluation of program effectiveness with an emphasis on developing skills needed to be an effective advocate for children and families. While the history of programs, beginning with the New Deal, is explored. The major focus is on current legislation. The following issues are analyzed: child health, nutrition, education, adoption and foster care, Head Start, child care.

Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
3 credits

CFS 417: Senior Seminar in Child and Family Studies
A seminar for advanced students in the minor in child and family studies. A selected topic, chosen from among the following, is explored in depth: children and families at risk, motherhood, parent education, families with disabled members, family and individual development in the later years, families and the media, and cross-cultural perspectives on child care and the parent-child relationship.

Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
3 credits

CFS 475: Undergraduate Teaching Practicum I
Work with a faculty member as an assistant in one of the faculty member’s regularly scheduled classes. The student is required to attend all the classes, do all the regularly assigned work, and meet with the faculty member at regularly scheduled times to discuss the intellectual and pedagogical matters relating to the course.

Prerequisite: CFS minor or SSI major; U4 standing; interview; permission of instructor
3 credits

CFS 476: Undergraduate Teaching Practicum II
Work with a faculty member as an assistant in one of the faculty member’s regularly scheduled classes. The student is required to attend all the classes, do all the regularly assigned work, and meet with the faculty member at regularly scheduled times to discuss the intellectual and pedagogical matters relating to the course.

Prerequisites: CFS 475 (formerly SSI 475); permission of instructor
3 credits, S/U grading

CFS 477: Independent Project in Child and Family Studies
Interdisciplinary independent projects in child and family studies designed to enable students to complete independent research or to combine academic and fieldwork on a practical or community problem. May be repeated.

Prerequisites: 18 credits in the social and behavioral sciences; permission of program and program
0-6 credits

CFS 488: Internship
Participation in local, state, or national public or private agencies and organizations. Students are required to submit written progress reports and a final term paper to the faculty sponsor. May be repeated up to a limit of 12 credits.

Prerequisites: 15 credits in the social and behavioral sciences; permission of instructor and program
0-6 credits, S/U grading

CFS 489: Child Life Internship
Prospective Child Life professionals receive supervised experience in action-based research within the pediatric hospital setting, applying their academic, intellectual and technical skills toward assessing the needs of children and families for Child Life services and planning and implementing individualized, age-appropriate educational, play, recreational, and support activities. May be repeated up to a limit of twelve credits.

Prerequisites: Completion of the Child and Family Studies minor; permission of instructor
0-6 credits, S/U grading