

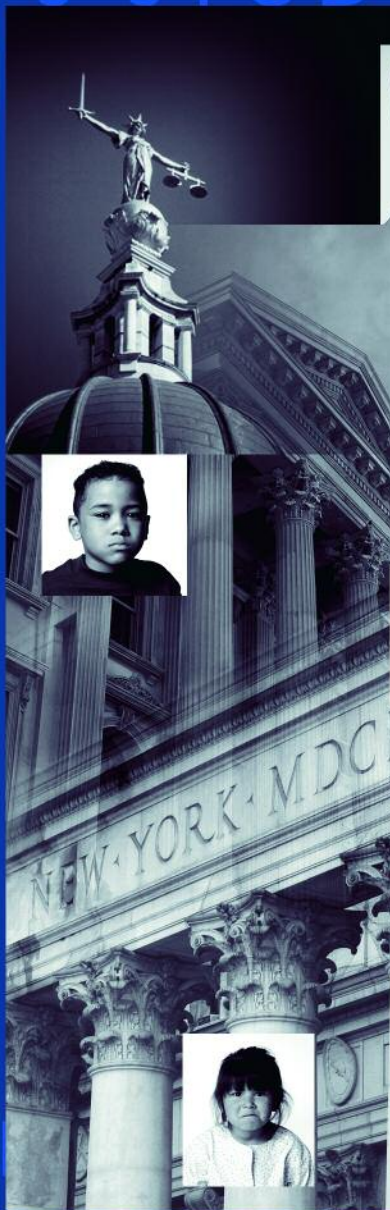
CHILDREN'S STUDIES

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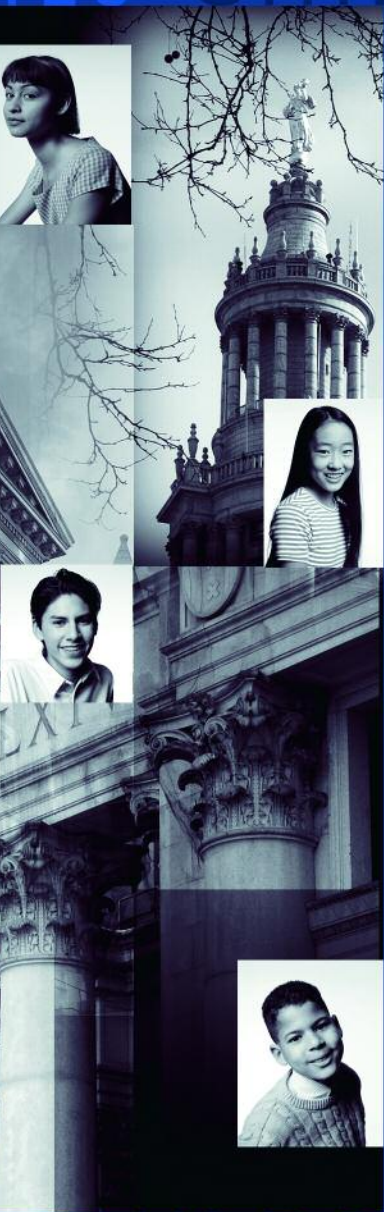


COLLEGE



CHILDREN'S STUDIES

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Children's Studies

An Interdisciplinary
Minor

Brooklyn College
The City University of New York

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Professor Gertrud Lenzer, director, Children's Studies Program and Center with students from her course Perspectives on Childhood.

The Field of Children's Studies

Gertrud Lenzer is the founder and director of Children's Studies, as well as a professor of sociology and Children's Studies at both Brooklyn College and The City University of New York Graduate Center. In 1991, she led Brooklyn College's efforts to become the first academic institution to develop an interdisciplinary liberal arts Children's Studies program. Hailed as "pioneering" by the *New York Times*, the interdepartmental program of Children's Studies brings together knowledge about children and youth from infancy through the age of legal majority as seen from the differing perspectives of the arts, humanities, social and natural sciences, education, medicine, and the law. This groundbreaking interdisciplinary field was soon emulated by other colleges and universities both here and abroad.

Since 1992, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the recognition of the human rights of children have been the constitutive framework for the new field of Children's Studies, which included the creation of a course on "The Human Rights of Children: A Transnational Development." Gertrud Lenzer has participated in numerous national and international initiatives and conferences on the rights of the child and has published extensively in the field.

Program Overview: Minor in Children's Studies

The Children's Studies program provides students with a holistic and comprehensive understanding of the propensities and aptitudes of children, from birth to age eighteen, in their formal and informal contexts, both historical and contemporary. At the same time, Children's Studies advances the rights of children, who often cannot advocate for themselves.

The Children's Studies minor includes course offerings to enrich the student's liberal arts education and complement the major area of study. Children's Studies provides training in traditional, contemporary, and evolving research methodologies for studying the well-being of the whole child. Children's Studies promotes an awareness of child-related issues for students in their present or future roles as parents, citizens, and professionals, and equips students for future careers in professions and occupations related to children and youth.

The Children's Studies minor includes such topics as the history of childhood; interdisciplinary perspectives on childhood; the human rights of children; child development and health; applied research methodologies; and policy research in the areas of child welfare and juvenile justice. The Children's Studies internship in applied Children's Studies places students in exciting and demanding professional settings.

Program Requirements

The minor in Children's Studies requires the completion of at least 15 credits of courses in the Children's Studies program with a grade of C or higher in each course.

One course from the following:

Children's Studies 20 or 30

Two courses from the following:

Children's Studies 21;

Children's Studies 25;

Children's Studies 32;

Children's Studies 33;

Children's Studies 34;

English 65 or Speech 14.4 or Speech 31;

Health and Nutrition Sciences 36 or Children's Studies 95;

Psychology 20; Sociology 40.2

Two courses from the following:

Africana Studies 54;

Children's Studies 31;

Children's Studies 35;

Children's Studies 40;

Children's Studies 88;

Education 34;

Children's Studies 40.1 or History 30.4;

Puerto Rican and Latino Studies 40

Please note that some of these courses have prerequisites.

Course Offerings for the Children's Studies Minor

Children's Studies 20: Perspectives on Childhood

3 hours, 3 credits

Childhood viewed from the perspectives of health science, history, literature, psychology, sociology, and the arts.

Autobiography as inquiry into the child's selfhood; the child's imagination; perceptions of adolescence; the child in relation to the family, school, and community; children's experiences of personal, social, and political problems; social, economic, and educational policies affecting children; children's rights and international policy. *(This course is not open to students who have completed Children's Studies 1.)*

Prerequisite: Core Studies 1, 3, or 4, and English 1; or Core Curriculum 1.1, 2.2, or 2.3, and English 1; or permission of the program director.

Children's Studies 21: Applied Research in Children's Studies

3 hours, 3 credits

Study of applied research with children in social science settings; ethical issues that arise when conducting research with children; different approaches to research, both qualitative and quantitative/experimental. Students will gain hands-on experience with one or more research methods inside and/or outside of the class, develop their own research questions, and explore appropriate methodologies for examining them. Critical reading and understanding of research literature and presentation of research findings.

(This course is not open to students who completed this topic as Children's Studies 25 in spring 2006 or fall 2006.)

Prerequisite: Children's Studies 20



The Second Child Policy Forum of New York: The Campaign for the United States Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, November 16, 2007.

<http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/pub/departments/childrenstudies/1262.htm>

Children's Studies 25: Special Topics: Issues in Children's Studies

3 hours, 3 credits

Emerging issues, policies, and research in rapidly developing areas relating to children and youth. Topics vary from term to term. (Not open to students who have completed Children's Studies 5.)

Children's Studies 30: The Human Rights of Children: A Transnational Development

3 hours, 3 credits

National and international development of the human rights of children movement; central documents, databases, and legislation in the area of children and youth rights; the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) of 1989 and its implementation; children ombudsmen in other countries; UNICEF activities; and more. Rights of children to full development, including such topics as street children; child abuse; child prostitution; discrimination on the basis of sex, race, or religion; child soldiers; and child labor.

Prerequisite: Core Studies 1, 3, or 4, and English 1; or Core Curriculum 1.1, 2.2, or 2.3, and English 1; or permission of the program director.



Dr. Victor Karunan, Chief, Adolescent Development and Participation (ADAP), Division of Policy and Practice, UNICEF Headquarters, visited the Perspectives on Childhood class, October 2007. Dr. Karunan discussed the work of UNICEF and Adolescent Development and Participation.

<http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/pub/departments/childrenstudies/1536.htm>

Children's Studies 3I: Children in Crisis

3 hours; 3 credits

Children in extreme situations of social, cultural, political, and familial disruption. Examination of such global and domestic situations as war, natural disaster, famine, poverty, abuse and terrorism, which lead to starvation, disfigurement, slavery, forced prostitution, child soldiers, forced employment, separation, homelessness, and high incidence of infanticide. Children and September 11, 2001. Conditions faced by children, including foster care, displacement, detention and intra-family abuse. The effects of violence and crisis situations on children. Preventative measures and alleviation of children's sufferings.

Prerequisite: Core Studies 1, 3, or 4, and English 1; or Core Curriculum 1.1, 2.2, or 2.3. and English 1; or permission of the program director.

Children's Studies 32: The Professional Performing Child: Past and Present Issues

3 hours, 3 credits

Examination of the stage child in western history during the last 130 years, focusing on the performer in society rather than the dramatic character. Construction of popular views of the stage child through an examination of the regulations, laws, and mores applied. Issues in children's employment, such as health and safety, education, professional training and prospects, the role of organized labor, and long-term psycho-social adjustment. Current venues, working conditions, and regulations. Scholarly studies and individual histories of professional performing children. *(This course is not open to students who completed this topic as Children's Studies 25 in spring 2000 or spring 2001.)*

Prerequisite: Core Studies 1, 3, or 4; or Core Curriculum 1.1, 2.2, or 2.3; or permission of the program director.

Children's Studies 33: Children and the Law

3 hours, 3 credits

This course is designed to provide students with an exploration of the status, rights, and obligations of children according to the American legal system; to develop a general understanding of aspects of law ranging from family and social service law to juvenile and criminal law as they apply to children and adolescents; and to familiarize students with the growth and development of the American legal system, which in the course of the twentieth century established that children have both substantive and procedural constitutional rights.

Prerequisite: English I and Core Curriculum 2.2; or permission of the program director.

Children's Studies 34: Child Abuse and Neglect

3 hours, 3 credits

This course introduces students to contemporary understandings of what constitutes abuse and neglect; methodological difficulties in identifying abuse and neglect, both in terms of identifying individual children at risk, and

from the perspective of documenting incidence and prevalence; and the specific, and often controversial, legal and social issues that arise when abuse and neglect are suspected and/or reported.

Prerequisite: English I and Core Curriculum 2.2; or permission of the program director.

Children's Studies 35: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Children and Disability: Local, National, and International Development

3 hours, 3 credits

A critical overview of children and disability using local, national, and international perspectives. Historical to contemporary based discussions on culture and policy demonstrated through education, media, and medical practices specific to children and disability. Understanding of current policy, child-centered research, and practices specific to children and disability extending from the United States to China. *(This course is not open to students who completed this topic as Children's Studies 25 in fall 2006 or spring 2007.)*

Prerequisite: Core Studies 3 or 4; or Core Curriculum 2.2 or 2.3; or permission of the program director.

Children's Studies 40: Children of New York

3 hours, 3 credits

Examination of children's lives in New York. The institutions that affect them; living conditions and lifestyles; housing; education; religion; family structure; and public health. Relevant demographic variables, including age, gender, ethnicity, race, geography, and socio-economic status. Children's social organization in such activities as play, sports, music and dance, Internet use, illegal music downloading, and other forms of media. Examination of demographic trends focusing on child welfare, including legal and social policies affecting children. *(This course is not open to students who completed this topic as Children's Studies 25 in spring 2005 or fall 2005.)*

Prerequisite: Children's Studies 20 or 30 or 31; or permission of the program director.



Nya, a student in the Suzuki program at the Preparatory Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College, performed at the Brooklyn College Open House, April 2008. Pictured here with her mom, younger brother, and Professor Gertrud Lenzer.

Children's Studies 40.1: History of Children, Public Policy, and the Law in the United States

3 hours, 3 credits

Political and legal history of children's issues in the United States, focused on the attitudes and actions of figures in power. Origins of public education and welfare; debate over child labor. *Brown v. Board of Education*, *In re Gault*, *Tinker v. Des Moines*. Abortion, busing, welfare reform, and children's rights in the legal and political arenas. (This course is the same as History 43.21.)

Children's Studies 88: Independent Study

Minimum of 9 hours conference and independent work, 3 credits

Independent research supervised by a Children's Studies faculty member on an approved topic and with approved readings that culminates in a research paper. Periodic conferences. This course may be taken only once for credit.

Prerequisite: Children's Studies 20 and 21; Children's Studies 30 or 31, with a grade of C or higher; completion of an approved program of advanced Children's Studies courses; and permission of the director of Children's Studies.



*Irene, Heidi, Elisabeth and Angela, all aged 12, Switzerland.
Courtesy of The World Through the Eyes of Children: A project of
Save the Children. <http://www.treeoflife.se/pictures.html>*

Children's Studies 95: Internship in Applied Children's Studies

7 hours fieldwork and 1 hour conference per week, 3 credits

Off-campus internship to explore careers in professional settings that focus on children, youth, and families. Placements include such institutional areas as the media, advertising, governmental and nongovernmental organizations, medicine, law, and corporations whose activities have a bearing on the lives of children and youth. Final report required.

Prerequisite: Children's Studies 20 or 30 or 31, or permission of the program director.

Africana Studies 54: The Black Child and the Urban Education System

3 hours, 3 credits

Study and evaluation of school curricula from preschool through high school in terms of their historical background and contribution to the development of Black children. Finding and writing bibliographical materials relevant to the curricula.

Education 34: Urban Children and Adolescents: Development and Education

3 hours recitation, 25 hours field experience; 3 credits

Relationship between basic developmental processes of children and adolescents and their educational experiences in schools and communities.

Prerequisite or corequisite: Education 16.

English 65: Literature for Young People

3 hours, 3 credits

Literature appropriate for students in elementary and secondary schools. Fundamentals of literature and basic readings of interest to young people.

Prerequisite: English I or I.7.

Health and Nutrition Sciences 36: Family Influences on Child Health

3 hours, 3 credits

Parenthood, prenatal care; development and health of the child from birth to adolescence; school environment; physical handicaps. Requires permission of the chairperson.

History 30.4: History of Childhood

3 hours; 3 credits

Children's place in society and thought from antiquity to the present. Child-rearing practices, childhood disease and mortality, the education of children, literary reflections of childhood experiences in relation to the history of society and the culture of the family and of women. (*Not open to students who have completed History 24.7.*)

History 43.21: History of Children, Public Policy, and the Law in the United States

3 hours; 3 credits

See course description for Children's Studies 40.1.

Psychology 20: Introductory Child Psychology

3 hours; 3 credits

Principal features of the psychological development of children. Lectures, discussions, class period observations. (Not open to students who are enrolled in or who have completed Psychology 25 or Education 27.1.)

Prerequisite: Psychology 1.1 or 2.

Puerto Rican and Latino Studies 40:

The Puerto Rican, Latino, and Caribbean Child in New York City

3 hours; 3 credits

Puerto Rican, Latino, and Caribbean children in contemporary society. Relation of school curricula to their historical background and cultural contributions. Development of identity; knowledge and appreciation of heritage. Examination, use, and evaluation of instructional materials. Concepts, information, and materials necessary for effective work with target population.

Sociology 40.2: Sociology of Children

3 hours; 3 credits

Sociological analysis of children and childhood. Historical and cross-cultural differences in attitudes toward children. Socialization processes, the family, peer cultures, education, mass media, children as consumers. Such social problems as social inequality and poverty; divorce, adoption, and foster care; racial discrimination; differential schooling; children at risk.

Prerequisite: Core Curriculum 2.3 with a grade of B- or higher; or Core Studies 3 with a grade of B- or higher; or Sociology 5, or permission of the chairperson.



In April, 2006 The City University of New York's Black Male Initiative presented a conference titled "Black Male Youth: Creating a Culture for Educational Success". A keynote speaker was John Hope Franklin, James B. Duke Professor Emeritus of History at Duke University, pictured here with Professor Gertrud Lenzer.

Speech 14.4: The Performance of Children's Literature

3 hours; 3 credits

Specific performance elements in reading to and with children. (Not open to students who are enrolled in or have completed Speech 14.5.)

Prerequisite: Completion of course assigned at speech screening interview.

Speech 31: Speech and Language Development

4 hours; 4 credits

Speech, language, and communication development in relation to motor, perceptual, cognitive, emotional, and social development. Implications for individual, cultural, and linguistic variation and literacy. (Not open to students who have registered for this course in any two prior semesters.)

Prerequisite: minimum GPA of 3.00 and Speech 13.



Brooklyn College Open House, April 2008. Student volunteers discuss the Children's Studies program with prospective students.

Advisement for the Selection of a Concentration in Children's Studies

Students who are interested in pursuing a minor in Children's Studies are advised to consult with the director of Children's Studies as early as possible to plan an appropriate sequence of courses. Students selecting this minor must also complete an Undergraduate Major/Minor/Concentration form, which may be obtained in 3602 James Hall.

The minor in Children's Studies will be recorded on the student's transcript.

For more information, please contact:

Professor Gertrud Lenzer
Director, Children's Studies, or
Elise Goldberg
Coordinator, Children's Studies
3602 James Hall, 718.951.3192
e-mail: eliseg@brooklyn.cuny.edu

Children's Studies Faculty Committee

All telephone numbers are in area code 718.

Gertrud Lenzer

Children's Studies and Sociology 951.3192

Margaret-Ellen Pipe

Children's Studies and Psychology 951.3192

Yael Orbach

Children's Studies 951.3192

Gail B. Gurland

Speech Communication Arts and Sciences 951.5186

Louise Hainline

Dean of Research and Graduate Studies 951.5252

Lindley P. Hanlon

Film 951.5664

Margaret L. King

History 951.5303

Carol Korn-Bursztyn

Education 951.5431

Régine Latortue

Africana Studies 951.5597

Betty Wolder Levin

Health and Nutrition Sciences 951.5026

Roni L. Natov

English 951.5195

María E. Pérez y González

Puerto Rican and Latino Studies 951.5561



Mural (4 x 5.5 feet) on view in the Children's Studies Center. Created by sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grade students at St. Mary, Mother of Jesus/St. Frances Cabrini Academy. Culmination of a project on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Instructor: Ms. Josephine Maione, '03, CS Alumna.

Children's Studies

In the Service of Children and Youth

Brooklyn College

The City University of New York
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Please visit us at

<http://dephome.brooklyn.cuny.edu/childrensstudies>

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