

Bunker Hill Community College
**Professional Studies
and Workforce
Development**



LNG-207

Understanding Parenting in America for Au Pairs

Jessica Bethoney, Professor, Humanities

This course is specially designed for “au pairs” or other professionals in the child-care field who want to understand current American parenting practices from a cross-cultural perspective.

The course is 45 hours and offers the equivalent of 3 credits toward the “au pair” educational requirement. Twenty-five hours will be spent in the classroom and the other 20 hours will involve pre-assignments and a field-based, faculty-mentored project.

Together we will examine American parenting styles—including styles of discipline—and their effect on child development. We will compare and contrast these styles with those of other cultures, especially the cultures of students in the class. We will also discuss the potential inter-cultural conflicts that may arise from parenting with different cultural values and strategize resolutions.

Course Objectives:

- Students can identify the values that shape their own cultural “filter” and approaches to parenting.
- Participants will be able to describe American and other cultures’ parenting styles and their underlying values.
- Students can identify and analyze intercultural conflicts and strategize solutions.

Time Commitment:

- Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., March 29–April 28 (five weeks)
- On Tuesday, May 3, and Thursday, May 6, there will be individual conferences with the professor regarding student field projects.
- On Thursday, May 9, there will be poster or PowerPoint presentations in the classroom.

Course Requirements:

Pre-assignment (5 hours)

Students will keep a journal with their own cultural reflections to submit at the first class meeting. The journal will focus on the cross-cultural issues that may arise in their work experience and some of these conflicts will be written up as cases for classroom analysis and strategizing.

Post-course assignment (15 hours)

Students will do a field study focusing on adult-child interactions outside the family environment (i.e. camp, playground, school or even shopping malls and supermarkets). The faculty member will mentor the project and students will return for a classroom reunion in which they will present their findings to the group.

Course Price:

The price for this course is \$359.

Registration Deadline:

March 14, 2016

Course Materials:

The book *Parenting Without Borders* by Christine Gross-Loh. Order from amazon.com. Articles will also be given by the professor. You must have the book by the first day of class.

Accreditation:

Bunker Hill Community College is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc., through its Commission on Institutions of Higher Education.

You can email your questions to:

jchan@bhcc.mass.edu or ssha4746@bhcc.mass.edu

Or contact by phone:

Jack Chan at 617-228-2157 or Sonia Sharma at 617-228-2462.



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