Course Summary:

This introductory course aims to provide a historical overview on the figure of the ‘child’. It seeks to problematize notions of ‘childhood’ and the ways in which states, societies and communities of the Global South impinge upon childhood experiences and agency. Using an array of textual and visual sources, this course will examine case studies from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries to understand the framing of childhood as historical processes. What/who is a child and how can we write a history of childhood to understand contemporary global history will remain pivotal questions.

Aims:
To demonstrate that ‘childhood’ is a constructed category varying across time and space.
To encourage critical thinking with regard to state policies and social reform projects involving children.
To provide an overview of the links between the politics of childhood and regional and community histories
To understand the challenges involved in writing histories of children and childhood.

Course Themes:

‘Local’ and ‘Global’ Childhoods
- What / Who is a Child?
- Age as a category of analysis
- Discussion on the UN Convention on Rights of Children
- Schooling and Childhood
- Children’s Voices in the Archives : Official, Autobiographical, Cultural
- Movie Screening : The White Balloon (Persian/ Iran, Dir: Jahfar Panahi)


Childhood and Colonialism

- Colonialism, Race, and Children
- Orphans and missionaries
- Slavery and Child Labour
- Childhood and Medicine
- Movie Screening: Kaakai Muttai (Tamil/India, Dir: M.Manikandan)

Maksudyan, Nazan. *Orphans and Destitute Children in the Late Ottoman Empire*. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 2014


Murdoch, Lydia. ‘Carrying the Pox: The Use of Children and Ideals of Childhood in Early British and Imperial Campaigns against Smallpox’, *Journal of Social History*, Volume 48, Number 3, 2015, p. 511-535.


Childhood and Gender

- Mother-craft and Health
- Sexuality and the ‘Child’
- Schooling and Gender
- Movie Screening: Halo (English/Hindi/India, Dir: Santosh Sivan)


Children, Citizenship, and Nation

- Imperialism and Children of the Empire
- Children and War
- ‘Nation’ and ‘Nationalisms’

Morrison, Heidi, *Childhood, Modernity, and Nation-building in Egypt, 1890-1939*, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2009

Topdar, Sudipa. “Duties of a 'good citizen': colonial secondary school textbook policies in late nineteenth-century India”, *South Asian History and Culture* 6 (3), 417-439