

## **COURSE SYLLABUS**

### **FCS 5962- Special Topics: Attachment Across the Lifespan**

SPRING, 2007      Tuesdays 2:00 - 4:30      AEB 220

Instructor: **Dr. Russell Isabella**    Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., and by appt.  
Office: 212 Alfred Emery Building    Phone: 581-5459    email: [russ.isabella@fcs.utah.edu](mailto:russ.isabella@fcs.utah.edu)  
website: [www.fcs.utah.edu/~isabella](http://www.fcs.utah.edu/~isabella)

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

This course is directed toward an examination of Attachment Theory, with the assumption that students in the class already have a basic understanding of this theory. Our purpose will be to consider what attachment theory has to say about the role of attachment in our development throughout life. Additionally, we will consider research that has informed this theoretical perspective in order so that we may gain a better understanding of the empirical basis for the theory.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Texts:** Two textbooks are required:

1. Karen, R. (1998). Becoming Attached: First Relationships and How They Shape Our Capacity to Love. New York: Oxford University Press (available in the University Bookstore)
2. Grossmann, K.E., Grossmann, K., & Waters, E. (Eds) (2005). Attachment from Infancy to Adulthood: The Major Longitudinal Studies. New York: The Guilford Press. (Must find and purchase)

**Attendance:** It is expected that all students will attend and be prepared for every class period.

**Exams:** There will be **no** exams for this class.

**Term Project:** There will be a term project for this course, the nature of which will be decided by each of you. We will discuss various options before each student is required to commit to a specific project.

### **GRADING**

Grades will be based on student preparedness for and participation in class discussion, and performance on the term project.

### **COURSE OUTLINE -- DATES TO BE AWARE OF**

Following is a **tentative** outline for the semester. Any changes will be noted in class. Students are responsible for reading the assigned materials prior to class.

#### **PART I: CONCEPTUAL OVERVIEW**

JAN 9	Course Introduction
JAN 16	"Attachment Theory: A Review" Reserve Readings (Bowlby; Isabella)
JAN 23	"What do we need and how do we become who we are?" Karen Part I (pp 1 - 125)
JAN 30	"Measurement Breakthrough" Karen Part II (pp 129 - 173) Ainsworth articles (on reserve) Bretherton article (on web: <a href="http://www.psychology.sunysb.edu/attachment/online/inge_origins.pdf">http://www.psychology.sunysb.edu/attachment/online/inge_origins.pdf</a> )
FEB 6	"Where do we go from here? The fate of early attachments" Karen Part III (pp 177 - 247)
FEB 13	"What will I be when I grow up?" Adulthood: Karen Part V (pp 361 - 408)
FEB 20	Contention: Debate regarding the meaning of attachment: Karen Chapter 19 and Part IV (pp 248 - 357)
FEB 27	Guest Speaker

#### **PART II: RESEARCH**

MAR 6	Research: The study of early attachment: Edited volume, Chapters 3 (Sroufe et al.) and 4 (Belsky)
MAR 13	Research: Internal Working Models: Edited volume, Chapters 2 (Bretherton) and 10 (Main, et al.)
MAR 20	***Spring Break***
MAR 27	Research: Adult Attachment: Edited Volume, Chapters 9 (Crowell & Waters) and 10 (Main et al.)
APR 3 - APR 24	Student projects/to be determined