

## Syllabus: Families and Education in Three Cultures

Toni Falbo, Instructor

EDP 382C (Unique No. 10565)

ANS 391 (Unique No. 32419)

Meets 12-3pm, Mondays

SZB 435

Fall Semester, 2018

**Instructor:** Toni Falbo, Professor of Educational Psychology. The most reliable way of contacting Falbo is email: [toni@prc.utexas.edu](mailto:toni@prc.utexas.edu). She has a phone in her office: (512) 471.0603. Falbo will be in her office (SZB 504B) after class. Students can also request appointments at other times, as needed.

**Objective:** To explore the intersection of families and education by comparing the cultural beliefs of families and the culture of schools within nations and across three dominant nations: China, Japan, and the U.S.

**Readings:** There are two, required books:

Chu, L. (2017). *Little soldiers: An American Boy, a Chinese school, and the global race to achieve*. New York: Harper.

Tobin, J. et al. (2009). *Preschool in three cultures Revisited*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

In addition, we will be reading chapters from other books and scholarly articles about secondary and post-secondary education in China, Japan, and the U.S.

**Weekly Assignments:** We will be reading chapters from the Chu and Tobin books and from additional sources. Readings from other sources will be posted as files on our canvas site. Every week, students are expected to write answers to questions posted on canvas by noon on the day we are discussing that topic in class (in other words, before class). Each week students earn 5 points when they answer the questions and upload the answers onto canvas ON TIME. There are 12 readings, worth 5 points each, and so this accounts for 60% of each student's grade.

**Video Viewing:** We have gained access to the videos produced by Tobin from his first and more recent books (revisited). We will watch these in class, but students may well want to view them outside of class, as well. They become available on Sept 1.

See below.

See <https://www.kanopy.com/product/preschool-three-cultures-collection>

**Paper:** Students will write a 15-page paper about the intersection between families and education, considering any level of education and any cultural or national group. The paper can focus on a single culture, or subculture, or take a comparative approach. The paper will be due at the end of the semester and will account for 20% of the course grade.

**Student Presentation:** Students will select a reading and present its contents to the class. Each student will identify his or her own reading or ask Dr. Falbo for suggestions. During presentations, students should explain why the content is important (which involves explaining the information contained in the literature reviewed), the hypotheses (if any), how the “data” were collected (including a description of participants and methods), and the conclusions. The presentation should take about 20 minutes. This presentation counts 20% of final grade. If the student chooses to make slides as part of the presentation (note that PPTs are not required), the students should not read out loud from the slides. The students need to talk to classmates as though trying to explain the content of the reading in conversational language.

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**Counseling and Mental Health Center, 24/7 HOTLINE: (512) 471-2255.**

**Students with Disabilities.** The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students, at 512.471.6259 or 471.4641 TTY.

### **Policy on Academic Integrity**

Students who violate University rules on academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information, please visit the Student Conduct and Academic Integrity website

at: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct>.

### **Religious Holy Days**

Religious holy days sometimes conflict with class and examination schedules. Sections 51.911 and 51.925 of the Texas Education Code address absences by students and instructors for religious holy days.

Section 51.911 states that a student shall be excused from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for

that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. University policy required students to notify each of their instructors as far in advance of the absence as possible so that arrangements can be made.

**EVACUATIONS:** Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when an alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting the building and assembling outside. Students should familiarize themselves with all exit doors of each classroom and building. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building. Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class. In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors. Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.

### **Carrying of Handguns**

Individuals who hold a license to carry are eligible to carry a concealed handgun on campus, including in most outdoor areas, buildings and spaces that are accessible to the public, and in classrooms.

It is the responsibility of concealed-carry license holders to carry their handguns on or about their person at all times while on campus. Open carry is NOT permitted, meaning that a license holder may not carry a partially or wholly visible handgun on campus premises or on any university driveway, street, sidewalk or walkway, parking lot, parking garage, or other parking area.

### **Schedule**

Date	Topic	Reading
September 10	Introduction	No readings
September 17	“The System”	Chu (2017) 11-120
September 24	“Change”	Chu (2017) 121-246
October 1	“Chinese Lessons”	Chu (2017) 247-322
October 8	“Introduction”	Tobin et al (2009) 1-21
October 15	“China”	Tobin et al (2009) 22-94
October 22	“Japan”	Tobin et al (2009) 95-156
October 29	“United States”	Tobin et al (2009) 157-224
November 5	“Looking across time and culture”	Tobin et al (2009) 224-248
November 12	Secondary Schools: Japan	LeTendre 2000 + others
November 19	Secondary Schools: China	We search together
November 26	Secondary Schools: US	We search together

December 3  
December 10

PostSecondary & HigherEd    We search together  
Paper Due

LeTendre, G.K. (2000). *Learning to be adolescent*. New Haven: Yale University Press. (Google book)