Instructor

Sample Instructor, Ph.D. LP
XXX ChDev

Overview

This is a special edition Special Topics course designed to coordinate with a 6-week MOOC offered on the Coursera platform by this instructor on behalf of the University of Minnesota. The course is currently being filmed but the description and introductory video is available for viewing on the Coursera website (search by instructor name or “Resilience”).

This “wrap around” offering would embed participating in the MOOC with a seminar on the same topic for undergraduates here at the University who would meet in person an additional 8 seminar sessions with the instructor to extend the course to additional topics, including the neuroscience of resilience and also topics of particular interest to the participating students.

One “orientation” session would precede the MOOC start date. Then the students would participate in the MOOC along with other participants except they would meet for an additional (150 minute) seminar session to discuss that week’s content in greater depth with additional readings. Following the conclusion of the MOOC the class would meet again for student presentations and discussion based on the final paper students will be required to write.

Children around the world experience severe adversity in different forms, including maltreatment, disaster, war, and terrorism. Some children manage to adapt and recover, showing resilience, while others do not. What do we know about resilience and how to protect child development in the face of potentially life-altering adversities? This course will examine the global literature on resilience in children and youth, with a focus on core concepts, methods scholars use to study resilience, highlights of lessons learned from half a century of research, and applications to promote resilience in children whose lives are threatened by extreme adversity.
Course content will address these topics among others:

- the meaning of resilience
- the origins of research on resilience in human development
- case approaches to understanding resilience
- testing models of risk and resilience
- effects on children of natural and technological disasters, war, and maltreatment
- enduring controversies and new horizons in the study of resilience
- roles of families, schools, culture, and community in promoting resilience of children

Course materials will examine multimedia biographies as well as research studies on the effects of common and rare traumatic experiences on child development. Both classic and contemporary studies of risk and resilience in children facing the following kinds of adversities will be included:

- natural disasters (eg, tsunami, hurricane, earthquake)
- political violence and war (eg, child soldiers, refugees)
- terror attacks (eg, 9/11, Beslan school)
- compound mass-trauma events like (eg, 2011 earthquake - tsunami - nuclear plant meltdown)
- child maltreatment
- severe poverty or privation

The course also will highlight new frontiers of research on the neurobiology of resilience, cultural protective processes, and preventive interventions to promote the capacity for resilience in young people.

Participants completing the course will gain a basic understanding of concepts and methods of research on resilience in children and youth, major findings from the first half-century of science on this topic, and a broad framework for applications of this growing knowledge to improve the lives of children threatened by hazardous circumstances.

**MOOC Format**

The class consists of 6 weekly modules. Each module will include 6 to 10 presentations to watch online, as well as readings and “active learning” assignments, such as completing a brief interview or survey, commenting on readings or films, and engaging in a forum discussion online.

**Seminar Format**

Students will meet weekly for a seminar-style discussion of the MOOC themes of the week with additional readings to extend the depth or breadth of that topic.

**MOOC Student Evaluation/Grading**

There will be a 10-item multiple choice quiz for each of the 6 topics worth up to 60 points total and 40 additional points of active learning assignments. Quiz questions will be drawn two-thirds from lectures and one-third from readings and active learning assignments. Students will be allowed to take quizzes multiple times. To pass the course, a student must accumulate 70 total points. Students who complete the course with a passing grade will receive a Statement of Accomplishment signed by the instructor.
Seminar Student Evaluation/Grading
Seminar students will be graded by accumulation of points as well except that their grade will be based on 200 points (100 accrued from the MOOC and 100 additional) and graded on a traditional scale (93% of the total points = A, 90% = A- and so on). The additional points will include 50 points for participation in the seminar and 50 points based on the quality of a final paper on a relevant topic of the students’ choice.

Syllabus

Week 1: Orientation to this unique combined course

MOOC Introduction to the Course and the Science of Resilience in Children
• Introduction to the course and resilience science
  o The meaning of resilience
  o Origins and landmark studies
  o 4 waves of resilience science
  o Case of Michael Maddaus
  o Active learning interview and survey about resilience

Week 2 – Methods and models in resilience science
 o How do scientists study resilience?
 o Person-focused methods: The single case
 o The case of Sara
 o Person-focused methods: Group comprisons
 o Variable-focused methods: Risk gradients
 o Variable-focused methods: Promotive factors
 o Variable-focused methods: Moderators
 o Combined methods
 o Pathway models
 o Intervention models

Week 3 – Children in disaster, natural and technological
 o Hurricane and typhoon
 o Earthquake and tsunami
 o Nuclear accidents
 o Oil spills
 o Lessons for policy and disaster preparedness

Week 4 – Children in war, terror, and political conflict
 o Case examples: Ida’s story; a modern child solder
 o Child victims of war
 o Child soldiers
 o War refugees
 o Youth in political conflicts
 o Realizing the potential of immigrant youth
 o Promoting peace through investments in child development

Week 5 – Ordinary magic and a resilience framework for action
 o The short list of most widely observed protective factors for resilience in children
 o The hijacking of adaptive systems
 o Key ingredients in designing programs and interventions to promote resilience
 o 5 Ms: Mission, Methods, Measures, Methods, and Multiple Levels/Disciplines
Week 6 – Old Controversies and New Horizons

- Enduring controversies
- Neurobiology of resilience
- Cultural approaches to resilience
- Globalization of research on resilience in children

Post-MOOC

Presentations and discussion of student paper topics.

Example readings


**Additional Resources**

**Books Referenced in this Course**