Anthropology 314: Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective
CRN: 16361
Fall 2010
Tuesday and Thursday 12:00-1:20
Lawrence 115

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Hours: Monday 10:30-12:00; Wednesday 2:00-3:00; and by appt.
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Class Description: This class uses contemporary issues and debates about gender as a springboard to examine anthropological data and theories. We will explore the question of women's and men’s power and the creative strategies employed cross-culturally with relation to political, economic, social and cultural roles. Case studies are drawn from Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Europe, and North and South America.

Readings:
1. Required texts are available at the UO Duck Store and on reserve in the library. They are:
   - Nisa: The Life and Words of a !Kung Woman by Shostak, Marjorie (Harvard University Press 1981). (Read in its entirety; approx. 40 pgs./week)
   - Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood by Satrapi, Marjane. (Pantheon, 2003). (Read in its entirety week 9-10)
   - The majority of weekly readings are in Gender in Cross-cultural Perspective by Sargent & Brettel. I have listed page numbers for the 4th edition, (which you can purchase online), and the 5th edition (available in the Duckstore). Either edition works. (We will read approx. 1/3 of the articles in the reader).
   - Any other required readings will be available on Blackboard (Bb).
2. Each week there will be required readings marked with an asterisk (*), as well as other supplementary readings. You are expected to read the required readings by the date they are assigned and be prepared to discuss them in your discussion section.
3. ‘Further readings’ are there for two reasons: one of your assignments will be to do a research project using outside resources in addition to required readings (discussed below) and they will also give you more background on topics I will cover in lecture. You may skim them for the topics that you are not doing your research on.

Course Requirements and Assignments:
1. As stated above, you are expected to read ALL assigned readings by the date under which they are listed. You will need to have read well enough to be able to discuss and follow lecture.
2. **Participation** is crucial and will be charted through weekly reading journals on Blackboard, as well as through your interactions in class and in discussion. **20%**

3. **Attendance** in your discussion section is required and your participation necessary to getting the most out of this class. **15%**

4. **Research Paper:** For this assignment you will pick one week’s topic to write a formal **3-4 page essay** on. You will need to include at least three outside resources in addition to the required readings (you can use listed readings). This is due by the Friday following the week the topics were covered in class.
*Alternately, you may read a full ethnography and write a book report/review (please discuss this option with your GTF or the instructor). **20%**

5. **Two take-home exams** will be assigned at midterm and finals time. They will be essay and short answer format. NO LATE PAPERS ARE ACCEPTED! **20% and 25% respectively.**

**Course Outline (subject to change):**

**Week One:** Overview of the anthropology of gender. Anthropological terms
- Tuesday Sept. 28: Introduction to the course, overview of requirements. Feminism and anthropology.
  - *Nisa*, pp. 1-39 “Introduction”
  - Further reading:

- Thursday Sept. 30: Nature/Culture and Domestic/Public debates
  - *(required)* Lamphere, Louise. “The Domestic Sphere of Women and the Public World of Men: The strengths of an Anthropological Dichotomy” on Bb (in Brettel 4e pp. 86-95, 5e pp.).
  - Further Reading:
    - Ortner, Sherry “So, Is female to male as nature is to culture?”

**Week Two:** Biology, Gender and Human Evolution
- Tuesday Oct. 5: Role of biology in gender studies
  - *Nisa*, pp. 40-72
  - *Zuk, Marlene. “Animal Models and Gender”* (in Brettel 4e pp. 7-16)
  - *Ehrenberg, Margaret. “The Role of Women in Human Evolution”* (in Brettel 4e pp. 16-21)

- Thursday Oct. 7: Maternity and Paternity: The question of a maternal instinct
  - *Schepers-Hughes, Nancy. “Lifeboat Ethics: Mother Love and Child Death in Brazil”* (in Brettel 4e pp. 31-37)
Week Three: Equality and Inequality

-Tuesday Oct. 12: Division of Labor and Gender Stratification
- * Nisa pp. 73-91
- * Rasmussen, Susan. “Pastoral Nomadism and Gender” (Brettel 4e pp. 155-169
- Further Reading:

-Thursday Oct. 14: Gender and Personhood
- Further Reading:

Week Four: Cultural Constructions of Gender and Sexuality

-Tuesday Oct. 19: Alternative and ‘Third’ genders
- * Nisa pp. 95-112
- Film excerpts: Harsh Beauty and Paradise Bent
- Further Reading:
  - Quart, Alissa (2008). “When girls will be boys” From NYTimes, March 16, 2008

-Thursday Oct. 21: Women’s Sexuality
- Film: Sworn Virgins
- Further Reading:
Week Five: Marriage Cross-Culturally
*MIDTERM ASSIGNED
-Tuesday Oct. 26:
- *Nisa pp. 115-157
- Film: *Fire
- *Menon, Shanti. “Male Authority and Female Authority: A study of the matrilineal Nayars in Kerala, South India” (Brettel 4e pp. 354-363)

-Thursday Oct. 28: Same-sex Marriage Debate
- Further Reading:

Week Six: Gender, Politics and Reproduction
-Tuesday Nov. 2:
- *Nisa pp. 159-191
- Further Reading:

-Thursday Nov. 4: Birthing in the U.S.
Guest Speaker: Melissa Cheyney, Associate Professor, OSU
- Davis-Floyd, Robbie. “Gender and Ritual: Giving birth the American way” (in Brettel 4e pp. 449-461)
- Cheyney, Melissa. Article TBA on Bb

*MIDTERM DUE FRIDAY NOVEMBER 5TH IN DISCUSSION (covers weeks 1-5)

Week Seven: Culture Contact, Development, and the Global Economy
-Tuesday Nov. 9: Discussion of changes in !Kung culture 1950-1980s, and 1980s to the
present. Current problems among the San. Video selections from Death by Myth (part of the Kalahari Family video series).

- *Nisa pp. 193-235

-Thursday Nov. 11: Gender and Development
- Lockwood, Victoria. “The Impact of Development on Women: The interplay of material conditions and gender ideology” (Brettel 4e pp. 500-515)

**Week Eight: Gender Ideologies**

-Tuesday Nov. 16:
- Film excerpts: *Killing Us Softly 4*

-Thursday Nov. 18: Aging and the Life Course
- *Nisa pp. 237-272

**Week Nine:**

  - *FINISH NISA*
- NO CLASS Thursday November 25, or discussion Nov. 26: Thanksgiving Holiday
  - Over the holiday read Persepolis

**Week Ten: Gender and the State**

-Tuesday Nov. 30:

-Thursday Dec. 2: Political History of Iran
  - *Satrapi, Marjane. Persepolis*
Finals Week December 6-10:
YOUR FINAL IS DUE THURSDAY DECEMBER 9TH BY NOON.