**Gender and Sex Roles: A Global Perspective**

**ANTH 3310**

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Office Hours: by appointment

**Description**

This course provides a cross-cultural and historical comparison of women’s and men’s life experiences in the areas of family, marriage and kinship, economic and political participation, sexuality, reproduction, ritual and religion.

**Learning Objectives**

* Develop a breadth of knowledge about the various ways in which gender and gendered practices manifest around the globe as related to: sexuality and identity; reproduction and child-rearing; family, marriage, and kinship; differences in hierarchy and power; household, economic, and state practices; religion; globalization; and health.
* Critically examine one’s own conceptions of gender and sexuality in light of cross-cultural and historical data on the subject.
* Demonstrate the ability to use interdisciplinary approaches for understanding complex issues.

**Required Texts:**

[B&S] Brettell, Caroline and Sargent, Carolyn (eds). 2012. Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective. 6th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall. ISBN-13: 978-0-13-606132-8

Popenoe, Rebecca. 2003. Feeding Desire: Fatness, Beauty, and Sexuality Among a Saharan People. Routledge.

Additional readings are posted to Blackboard. These are noted in the reading schedule with [BB]. They can be found under the “course documents” section. You must either be on campus or logged in to SMU libraries’ electronic content to retrieve some of these readings. It is your responsibility to retrieve these readings.

**A Note on Our Subject Matter**

The subject of this course is a cross-cultural exploration of gender, sex, and sexuality. Some of our readings, including the book you will review for a formal writing assignment, discuss sexuality and gender in explicit terms. I will also show videos that may contain nudity and adult language. The assigned readings are academic in nature, and appropriate for adult learners. If you are uncomfortable with open discussions of gender, sex, and sexuality, I suggest you choose a class better suited to your needs.

**Blackboard**

EVERYONE should see ANTH 3310 listed on their Blackboard homepage, no matter which section they are enrolled in. This is where you will access course readings, posted grades, and updates.

**Attendance**

Students are expected to attend all class sessions.  If you will not be able to attend a specific session, you must make arrangements with another student to get copies of notes, etc.  Appropriate medical and family excuses will be accepted, with proof, in order to establish new dates for assignments. Since this is an accelerated summer course, missing even a single class will put you significantly behind, and any unexcused absences will be cause for a reduction in your “attendance and participation” grade. In consideration for your fellow classmates, please do not come in late or leave early during class unless you have notified me beforehand. Cell phones should be turned off during class. Texting and internet use during class is not allowed. Use of laptops for any other purpose than note taking is prohibited; it is distracting not only for you, but also for fellow students.

**Course Evaluation**

Assignments must be turned in on time; for each 24-hour period an assignment is late, one full grade will be deducted (e.g., an “A” paper will become a “B” paper).  Appropriate medical and family excuses will be accepted, with proof, in order to establish new dates for assignments.

Attendance and Participation (15%): Participation includes actively engaging with the readings and discussing them in a productive manner during class, bringing in examples from your own experiences that relate to the topics being discussed, answering questions posed by the instructor in class, participating in small group work, participating in activities, and being respectful of divergent viewpoints. Discussion-based activities will comprise a substantial amount of the course, so everyone’s participation is important! Attendance will be taken daily.

Quizzes (10%): Brief in-class quizzes will be given periodically to check for completion of assigned readings.

Current Events Assignments (15%): Each student will find and present a current event related to the course. A short written assignment will be turned in to the professor as well. See the end of the syllabus for details on the assignment.

Book Response (30%): Each student will write a formal short paper [4-5 pages] on *Feeding Desire*. See the end of the syllabus for details on the assignment.

Final Exam (30%): The final will be an in-class exam.

**Course Format**

Every day there will be a lecture component along with some combination of quiz, discussion, activity, and film that will illustrate the day’s topic. You are expected to participate in all discussions and activities, and this will be part of your “attendance and participation” grade!

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| Jan 6.1 | Biology, Gender, and Human Evolution: Non-Human Primates |
| Jan 6.2 | Gender and Prehistory |
| Jan 7.1 | Domestic Worlds and Public Worlds: Is it a useful model? |
| Jan 7.2 | Equality and Inequality: Subsistence Strategies |
| Jan 8.1 | The Cultural Construction of Gender: Personhood and Language |
| Jan 8.2 | Culture, Sexuality, and the Body: Defining Sexuality and Third Gender Categories |
| Jan 9.1 | Culture, Sexuality, and the Body: The Body and Culture |
| Jan 9.2 | **Current Events assignments**  **FILM** |
| Jan 10.1 | Gender, Property, and the State |
| Jan 10.2 | Gender, Household, and Kinship |
| Jan 13.1 | Gender, Ritual, and Religion |
| Jan 13.2 | Gender, Politics, and Reproduction |
| Jan 14.1 | **Current Events assignments**  ***Business of Being Born*** |
| Jan 14.2 | Culture Contact, Development, and the Global Economy: Women and Development |
| Jan 15.1 | *Feeding Desire* paper due and discussion |
| Jan 15.2 | Final Exam |

**Policy Information**

**Women’s and Gender Studies Minor**

This course is eligible for credit towards the minor in Women's and Gender Studies. Please see the instructor if you would like more information on the minor. More information can also be found at: http://www.smu.edu/Dedman/Academics/Departments/WomGenStudies.

**Academic Honesty**

Academic honesty is of utmost importance. Cheating, plagiarism, and fabrication are unacceptable behaviors and will not be tolerated. If a student is caught in an act of academic dishonesty, she/he will receive a 0 on the assignment and will be brought to the honor council. See SMU’s honor code: http://smu.edu/studentlife/studenthandbook/PCL\_05\_HC.asp

**Disability Accommodations**

Students needing academic accommodations for a disability must first be registered with Disability Accommodations & Success Strategies (DASS) to verify the disability and to establish eligibility for accommodations. Students may call 214-768-1470 or visit http://www.smu.edu/alec/dass to begin the process. Once registered, students should then schedule an appointment with the professor to make appropriate arrangements.

**Religious Observance**

Religiously observant students wishing to be absent on holidays that require missing class should notify their professors in writing at the beginning of the semester, and should discuss with them, in advance, acceptable ways of making up any work missed because of the absence. (See University Policy No. 1.9.)

**Assignment Information:**

**Current Events Assignment**

You will present a current event (news story) of your choice. The topic must fit in with the general theme of the class (i.e. gender from a cross-cultural/global/international perspective) and should be fairly recent. The article can come from any reputable news source. (Remember, you can check international/global editions for a less US-centric selection of articles as well!).You will be asked to print out a copy of the current event article and provide a 1-2 page (typed, double spaced, 1 inch margin, 12 point font in Times New Roman) summary of the subject, as discussed in the article. Each student will be expected to take about 5-10 minutes of class time to discuss their current event topic. Students will choose from the previous topics discussed in class about which to present a related news source.

**Book Response**

Your response should include an overview of the book, two or three aspects you found particularly interesting, and a critical evaluation of the book in terms of intellectual appeal, readability, and significance. Your paper must be 4-5 pages long, typed, double spaced, with 1 inch margins, in Times New Roman (12 point). An “A” paper will exhibit the following characteristics:

1. It will address ALL parts of the prompt.
2. It will show use of **critical thinking skills.**
3. It will use clear, concise language and appropriate tone and diction.
4. It will be well-organized and show signs of editing.
5. Any course materials referenced in the paper must be cited appropriately (both in-text and with a works cited).
6. Outside materials are NOT required, but any used should be reliable academic sources (e.g. NOT Wikipedia or personal web pages) and cited appropriately

\*All items on syllabus are subject to change