

ANTH 3310 (CFB 3310)
Gender and Sex Roles: A Global Perspective
SMU in Taos 2011

Instructor:

Dr. Jose Leonardo Santos
jsanto@smu.edu

Text:

Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective, Caroline Brettell and Carolyn Sargent, editors,
Pearson Prentice Hall, Fifth Edition, 2009

Course Description:

This course examines the experiences of women and men throughout the world, intentionally including the cultures and people of the Southwest as a basis for comparison. A key notion is that masculinity and femininity are highly variable from culture to culture. Yet simultaneously, general trends in manhood and womanhood are also examined, such as the notion of the universal subordination of women. Thus, when comparing the local to the global, both similarities and differences will be discovered. Gender is an organizing principle, which shapes both behavior and how members of a culture experience family, marriage, economic and political participation, reproduction, religion, life decisions, and self-image.

Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the semester, students will:

- 1) Be able to distinguish between sex and gender, and possess the capacity to point out the confusion between the two that is present in most societies.
- 2) Be able to recognize, describe and explain gender bias in their own society and others.
- 3) Be familiar with a number of specific ethnographic and archeological case studies from the Southwest and other parts of the world that demonstrate both unity and difference in cross-cultural conceptions of gender.
- 4) Have learned to execute a scientific research design from the initial process of developing a research question, eventually designing a questionnaire and testing hypotheses.

Attendance:

Students must attend all class sessions. 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. In consideration for your fellow classmates, please do not come in late or leave early during class unless you have notified the instructor beforehand. Cell phones will be turned off during class. Texting and internet use during class is not allowed.

Cheating and Plagiarism

Students are expected to follow the honor code at all time. Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing work, or assisting others in doing so, will receive a 0 on the work in question and *will be* reported to University authorities.

Course Assignments:

Attendance and Participation (10%): 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, and being respectful of divergent viewpoints. Most class periods will begin with a discussion related to current topics, intended to give students the opportunity to participate.

Modern Media/ Current Issues Presentation (20%): Each student will give a 10 minute presentation, followed by discussion, of a topic selected from media such as newspapers, magazines, recent academic publications, or even the internet. The idea here is to gain knowledge of events in real time, while grounding them in the historical and cultural factors that gave rise to them. A small number of presentations will be made each class period, so that by the end of the course, each student will have made at least one presentation.

Course assignment (20%): Each student will complete a 7 page paper due at the end of the course. This paper shall combine academic sources with at least five ethnographic interviews to examine a topic related to local gender and sex roles. The student may choose their own specific topic, but is expected to use at least five academic sources and create a questionnaire with at least ten separate questions to execute the project. Project topics and sources shall be determined in the first week of class in consultation with the instructor, and their presentation in written form is included as part of the grade (but not the seven page minimum). It will follow the basic social scientific process of formulating a question and hypotheses, then testing them through ethnography.

Mid-term Exam (30%) : The mid-term shall be an in-class exam.

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

Course Schedule:

Session 1

Course Introduction, presentation of anthropological terminology, concepts, and models

Session 2

Biology, Gender, and Human Evolution (Reader introduction: p.1)

Reader:

Marlene Zuk “Animal Models and Gender” p.7

Margaret Ehrenberg “The Role of Women in Human Evolution” p.16

Lucinda Peach "Gender and War: Are Women Tough Enough for Military Combat?" p.21

Nancy Scheper-Hughes "Lifeboat Ethics: Mother Love and Child Death in Northeast Brazil" p.33

Barry S. Hewlett "The Cultural Nexus of Father-Infant Bonding" p.39

Session 3- Class Project topic, questionnaire, and hypotheses due

Domestic Worlds and Public Worlds (Reader introduction: p. 85)

M. Jane Young "Women, Reproduction, and Religion in Western Puebloan Society" *The Journal of American Folklore*, Vol. 100, No. 398, *Folklore and Feminism* (Oct. - Dec., 1987), pp. 436-445

Reader:

Louise Lamphere "The Domestic Sphere of Women and the Public World of Men: The Strengths and Limitations of an Anthropological Dichotomy" p.90

Anne Murcott "'It's a Pleasure to Cook for Him': Food, Mealtimes, and Gender in Some South Wales Households" p.99

Nicholas Townsend "Fatherhood and the Mediating Role of Women" p.109

Mary Weismantel "Cities of Women" p.123

Session 4

Equality and Inequality: The Sexual Division of Labor and Gender Stratification (Reader introduction, p.137)

Todd L. Howell "Tracking Zuni Gender and Leadership Roles across the Contact Period" *Journal of Anthropological Research*, Vol. 51, No. 2, *The Archaeology of Gender in the American Southwest* (Summer, 1995), pp. 125-147

Barbara J. Roth "The Role of Gender in the Adoption of Agriculture in the Southern Southwest" *Journal of Anthropological Research*, Vol. 62, No. 4 (Winter, 2006), pp. 513-538

Reader:

Estioko-Griffin "Woman the Hunter: The Agta" p.143

Maria Lepowsky "Gender, Horticulture, and the Division of Labor on Vanatina" p.152

Florence Babb "Woman and Work in a Postrevolutionary Society: Urban Cooperatives and the Informal Economy in Nicaragua" p.174

Session 5

Cultural Construction of Gender and Personhood (Reader, p.191)

Gilbert A. Quintero "Gender, Discord, and Illness: Navajo Philosophy and Healing in the Native American Church" *Journal of Anthropological Research*, Vol. 51, No. 1 (Spring, 1995), pp. 69-89

Reader:

David Gilmore "My Encounter with Machismo in Spain" p.196

Gilbert Herdt "Rituals of Manhood: Male Initiation in Papua New Guinea" p.211

Rubie Watson "The Named and the Nameless: Gender and Person in Chinese Society" p.215

Bonnie McElhinny "Gender and the Stories Pittsburgh Officers about Using Physical Force" p.227

Session 6

First Exam

Session 7

Culture, Sexuality, and the Body (Reader introduction: p.249)

Evelyn Blackwood "Sexuality and Gender in Certain Native American Tribes: The Case of Cross-Gender Females" *Signs*, Vol. 10, No. 1 (Autumn, 1984), pp. 27-42

Reader:

Lila Abu-Lughod "Is There a Muslim Sexuality? Changing Constructions of Sexuality in Egyptian Bedouin Weddings" p.255

Alma Gottlieb "From Pollution to Love Magic: The New Anthropology of Menstruation" p. 264

Gayatri Reddy and Serena Nanda "Hijras: An 'Alternative' Sex/Gender in India" p.275

Jacqueline Urla and Alan Swedlund "Measuring Up to Barbie: Ideals of the Feminine Body in Popular Culture" p.282

Session 8

Gender, Property, and the State (Reader introduction, p.297)

Jennifer Nez Denetdale "Chairmen, Presidents, and Princesses: The Navajo Nation, Gender, and the Politics of Tradition" *Wicazo Sa Review*, Vol. 21, No. 1 (Spring, 2006), pp. 9-28

Susan Welch, Albert K. Karnig, Richard Eribes "Changes in Hispanic Local Public Employment in the Southwest" *The Western Political Quarterly*, Vol. 36, No. 4 (Dec., 1983), pp. 660-673

Reader:

Rayna Rapp "Thinking about Women and the Origin of the State" p.302

Linda Stone and Caroline James "Dowry, Bride Burning, and Female Power in India" p.308

Josephine Caldwell Ryan "Encountering the State: Cross Cultural Perspectives on Women's Political Experience" p.317

Anne Allison "Japanese Mothers and Obentos: The Lunch Box as Ideological State Apparatus" p.329

Session 9

Gender, Household, and Kinship (Reader introduction, p.347)

David F. Aberle, Frank R. J. Flynn "Education, Work, Gender, and Residence: Black Mesa Navajos in the 1960s" *Journal of Anthropological Research*, Vol. 45, No. 4, Navajo Ethnology (Winter, 1989), pp. 405-430

Deborah A. Boehm

"'For My Children: Constructing Family and Navigating the State in the U.S.-Mexico Transnation" *Anthropological Quarterly*, Vol. 81, No. 4, Kids at the Crossroads: Global Childhood and the Role of the State (Fall, 2008), pp. 777-802

Reader:

Monica Cable "Beyond the 'Pattern of Heaven': Gender, Kinship, and the Family in China" p.352

Sharon Hicks-Bartlett "Between a Rock and a Hard Place: The Labyrinth of Working and Parenting in a Poor Community" p.362

Marsha Prior "Matrifocality, Power, and Gender Relations in Jamaica" p.377

Micaela di Leonardo "The Female World of Cards and Holidays: Women, Families, and the Work of Kinship" p.385

Session 10

Gender, Ritual, and Religion (Reader introduction, p.395)

Jeannette L. Mobley-Tanaka "Gender and Ritual Space during the Pithouse to Pueblo Transition: Subterranean Mealing Rooms in the North American Southwest"

American Antiquity, Vol. 62, No. 3 (Jul., 1997), pp. 437-448

Reader:

Janice Boddy "Spirit Possession and Gender Complementarity" p.401

Janet McIntosh "'Tradition' and Threat: Women's Obscenity in Giriama Funerary Rituals" p.412

Laurel Kendall "Shamans, Bodies, and Sex: Misreading Korean Ritual" p.425

Susan Starr Sered "Women, Religion, and Modernization: Tradition and Transformation among Elderly Jews in Israel" p.437

Session 11

Gender, Politics, and Reproduction (Reader introduction, p.449)

Diane-Michele Prindeville "Identity and the Politics of American Indian and Hispanic Women Leaders" *Gender and Society*, Vol. 17, No. 4 (Aug., 2003), pp. 591-608

Reader:

Robbie Davis-Floyd "Gender and Ritual: Giving Birth the American Way" p.455

Gail Kligman "Political Demography: The Banning of Abortion in Ceausescu's Romania" p.467

Helena Ragona "Surrogate Motherhood: Rethinking Biological Models, Kinship, and Family" p.482

Ellen Gruenbaum "Female Genital Cutting: Culture and Controversy" p.491

Session 12

Culture Contact, Development, and the Global Economy (Reader introduction, p.505)

Laura Jane Moore "Elle Meets the President: Weaving Navajo Culture and Commerce in the Southwestern Tourist Industry" *Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies*, Vol. 22, No. 1 (2001), pp. 21-44

Howard Campbell "Female Drug Smugglers on the U-S.-Mexico Border: Gender, Crime, and Empowerment" *Anthropological Quarterly*, Vol. 81, No. 1 (Winter, 2008), pp. 233-267

Reader:

Victoria Lockwood "The Impact of Development on Women: The Interplay of Material Conditions and Gender Ideology" p.510

M. Letitia Cairoli "Factory as Home and Family: Female Workers in the Moroccan Garment Industry" p.532

Nicole Constable "Sexuality and Discipline among Filipina Domestic Workers in Hong Kong" p.545

Laura Zimmer-Tamakoshi "'Wild Pigs and Dog Men': Rape and Domestic Issues as 'Women's Issues' in Papua New Guinea" p.564

Session 13

Course Assignment Due

Second Exam