

## ANTHROPOLOGY OF SEX AND GENDER

Anthropology 5100/6100  
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c. 2004

Office: Main 245C, Office Hours: MWF 12:30-1:20  
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Course time and location:  
M W F 11:30-12:20 PM, Main 119

### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A course designed to increase your awareness of sexuality and gender generally and of feminist perspectives about social problems related to gender and sexuality that cross-cut cultural boundaries.

### OBJECTIVES:

You will become familiar with how a variety of non-Western cultures structure the social roles of men and women and of variations in human values pertaining to human sexuality and gender. By contrasting these with American customs and gender roles, you will develop insights into the general principles that influence the roles of women and men in different cultures. You will learn how data on sexual behavior and gender roles in a variety of cultures can be used to generate theories that are applicable in explaining the gendered customs of industrialized societies such as our own. Finally, you will gain insight into a variety of contemporary social problems in which human sexuality and gender play a role. You will learn to examine these social problems from a feminist perspective that illuminates the effects of power differences and abuses of power on gender relations.

### BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS:

1. Institutionalized Power, Gender, and Male Supremacism . . 5
2. Incest and Sexual Abuse . . . . . 11
3. Patriarchy, Female Infanticide, and the Physical and  
Mental Abuse of Women . . . . . 16
4. Sexuality and Personal Identity in a Patriarchal,  
Heterosexist Context . . . . . 21

5. Gender and Personal Identity: More Than Just Female or Male . . . . .	25
6. The Cultural Construction of Women's Sexuality . . . . .	30
7. Rape . . . . .	34
8. Sexual Terrorism . . . . .	38
9. Prostitution, Female Sexual Slavery, and International Sexual Tourism . . . . .	41
10. Pornography, Violence, and the Law . . . . .	46
11. Sexuality and Reproductive Rights . . . . .	52
12. Women's Rights as Human Rights . . . . .	58
ANNOTATED SUPPLEMENTARY READING LIST . . . .	61

**STUDENT OBLIGATIONS:**

This is your course. It is not a lecture class. How well things go depend on you. You are expected to read the assigned articles (and others that catch your interest) and come to class prepared to share your opinions. This is a value-oriented course in which you have the right to express your feelings as well as thoughts about the material you study.

**READINGS AND RATING FORM**

The text for this course consists of photocopied articles that are available at the Marriott Library reserve desk and on electronic reserve at <http://sun5.lib.usu.edu/cgi-bin/eres/view.pl>. The syllabus identifies the articles that you should have read thoroughly before each class period. For each topic, you will find a list of from fifteen to twenty articles. Undergraduates are expected to read about five of these, while graduate students should read about ten. Each article title in the syllabus is accompanied by a short description of its contents. This is intended to help you choose which articles are most interesting or useful to you, so that you can tailor your own learning experience in this class to fit your needs. You will be expected to analyze and express your opinions about these articles in class, so read them before you come to class!. As you read each article give your overall opinion about its usefulness in helping you understand the topic of the course for which it was assigned. The rating form is included as page 4 of this syllabus. You will submit it at the end of the quarter to give your instructor information about how much reading you have accomplished. These ratings will also affect which articles are used in the future.

On the final day of the course you will also submit a personal reaction paper that states your current views on the topics covered in the course. This paper represents your opportunity to appraise the value the course has had for you and to make suggestions that will be incorporated into future versions of the course.

## GRADING

There will be NO MIDTERM tests in this course and NO FINAL EXAMINATION! *However, we will meet in the regular classroom during the scheduled Final Examination period (Thursday 4 May 2000 in the regular classroom from 9:30 to 11:20) as a regular class discussion period.* You will also submit **two book reports** during the quarter. The grade you receive for these reports will be weighted as equivalent to a fourth examination grade. Contributions to the classroom discussions may be rewarded with improved grades at the discretion of the instructor.

## BOOK REPORTS:

You will write two book reports during the quarter. They should demonstrate that you have read the books and that you are able to make sense of the sex roles of the peoples described in terms of the concepts developed in the course. I will be particularly looking for evidence of what you believe you learned about a feminist perspective on gender problems, so explain how your reading of these books improved your understanding of one or more of the topics of the course. You should select your books from the supplementary annotated reading list included at the end of this syllabus, although other appropriate books of your selection will be welcomed if they are first cleared with the instructor. For those of you in the distance education system, the books can be obtained from the USU library through the interlibrary loan program. Consult your local teaching assistant for information about how to order books.

## FINAL REPORT:

You must submit a personal reaction paper on the last day of class (the scheduled Final Examination period). This paper is not required to be a library research paper of the type you may have written for other courses--although you may write such a paper to fulfill this requirement. Rather--unless you choose to do a traditional term paper on a topic covered in this course--the intention is for this to be an opportunity to set forth your own current thinking on one or more of the subjects covered in this course. Think of it as a lecture that you are writing for presentation to an audience--a lecture in which you will summarize what you have learned that you now consider important for others to know about the kinds of gender-related social problems we have studied during this semester. The key to a paper that will receive a positive grade is that you should demonstrate that you have learned new insights into the topics through your reading during the semester. In other words, it must not be a paper that you could have written before taking this course, but must demonstrate that you worked to learn new insights in this class.

## GRADUATE STUDENT REQUIREMENTS:

Graduate students are expected to read all articles assigned to undergraduate students and articles specifically assigned to graduate students as well as choosing other articles according to their own interests. Graduate students will be expected to play an active role in the classroom discussions and may volunteer to lead discussions on topics of particular interest to them.

## HONORS STUDENT REQUIREMENTS:

In addition to the reading assignments listed by week, honors students will be required to write a position paper--that is a "thought-piece" in which they explore one of the topics covered in the course, how it applies to them, and how their feelings on the topic have changed as a result of their study. This paper should include reference to pertinent outside readings found by the students themselves.

## POLICY ON PLAGIARISM:

Plagiarism is a violation of one's own intellectual integrity and of the rights of other persons to credit for their own intellectual work. It is to be strictly avoided. Failure to credit other writers for their own work will be punished by a grade of "F" for the assignment in which it occurs and, in the event of repeat offenses, a grade of "F" for the course.

## DROPPING THE COURSE AND INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY

It is the policy of the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences that instructors issue incomplete grades only in cases where serious circumstances, such as medical illness, make it impossible for the student to complete the work of the course. Incompletes are not to be issued to help a student avoid a low grade. It is therefore incumbent on you to monitor your own progress and decide whether to remain in the course beyond the final day for dropping course. Be sure to check your quarter bulletin and know when that day is!

## ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DISABILITIES

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with disabilities documented through the Disability Resource Center. Please approach the instructor early in the course with any requests.

## GETTING STARTED

If you have not had a course in gender studies before, you might wish to read the following general article concerning gender: